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Daily Report

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FBIS-NES-94-170 | September 1994

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Trilateral Committee Meets in Washington

[NC0109071994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 Sep 94]

[Text] The trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. economic committee held a meeting in Washington last night at the expert level. The Jordanian delegation to the committee meetings is led by Dr. Fayez al-Tarawnah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, while the Israeli side is led by Dr. Eliyagim Rubinstein and the U.S. side by Dennis Ross, the U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

The trilateral committee will discuss a host of economic, tourism, and trade issues. It will also study ways of financing costly projects in this plan [not further identified], most important of which is a plan to develop the Jordan Valley, as well as build a canal to convey the water of the Red Sea to the Dead Sea.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters the purpose of these meetings is to look at some concrete, practical measures that can be carried out to help develop the Jordan Valley.

The three parties held a similar round on 20 August at the Dead Sea Hotel, during which they discussed future economic projects to develop the Jordan Valley region.

New International Desalination Project Detailed

[LD0209031194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Aug 94]

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] A new initiative to solve the water crisis between Israel and its Arab neighbors is in the offing. A consortium of giant Japanese and German companies is offering both countries development of the Gaz plan. This plan desalinates Mediterranean water and diverts it to the Bet She'an Valley. Japanese representatives met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on this issue this evening, and tomorrow they will meet Crown Prince Hasan. Our Arab-affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari has the initial details of this plan.

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] A serious proposal for financing and implementing a water plant of unprecedented size will soon be submitted to the Israeli and Jordanian Governments. The implementation of this plan will provide the region with an additional 800 million cubic meters of water per year. The stupendous sum of money involved, $3.5 billion, is being offered at a relatively low interest rate to be paid after a grace period of 15 years. Israel will have to buy the water from the consortium.

The proposal comes from a consortium of giant companies. Mitsubishi and other companies from Japan. Hochtief and other companies from Germany, and the Israel Military Industries. These companies thoroughly examined the various alternatives for a canal in the Jordan Valley. They concluded that the canal which the Jordanians preferred so far—from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea—is clearly economically inferior to the northern canal proposed by Shlomo Gaz. This canal will be dug from the Mitzpe area to the Bet She'an Valley, where it will desalinate water with the extensive mountain method, using hydrostatic power.

The desalination installations will be located both on the Israeli and Jordanian side of the border. While the canal directing the sea water will cross the Yizre'el Valley, the canal disposing of the salt water will cross Jordanian territory into the Dead Sea. In this way, a balance and mutual dependence will be created between the two countries. The Japanese and Germans assess that the price of the desalinated water will not be above $0.7 per cubic meter, lower are other alternative prices. Energetic contacts are currently being held in Jerusalem and Amman to obtain an agreement-in-principle for this idea.

[Dr. Takuma, president of the Mitsubishi conglomerate, in English] I think now we have still a fundamental program, that is through agreement between Israel and Jordanians for this project. If the two countries will be able to agree with this principle, then so many parties will be able to come to this project. This project is very unique, and also the technical reality is very advanced already, so except for this one major issue, I suppose, there is no other program. Of course, still we need to find out a financier. This will be a second problem, but we may solve this problem.

[Ya'ari] This plan has opponents both in Israel and Jordan, but there is a growing number there convinced that in the right plan to extricate ourselves from the dire water conflict by means of creating a huge amount of surplus water. Jordan, for example, urgently requires an additional 300 million cubic meters, and the new plan will more than solve this problem. In short, this is a solution to the water conflict based on additional water sources which even the Palestinians and Syrians could enjoy. Obviously, there are various ecological and financial difficulties, but at the moment this is the only serious plan on the agenda. [end recording]

Israel-Jordan Trade Agreement Said 'Frozen'

[LA0809122594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Aug 94 p 8]

[Report from Jordan by Gay Bechor]

[Excerpts] In the wake of pressure from the PLO, Jordan has frozen the trade agreement signed on by the Israeli and Jordanian delegations last week. This was reported by senior Israeli and Jordanian sources at the negotiations. The Israeli sources reported that Jordan announced yesterday that it intends to postpone the

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implementation of the trade agreement, expressing that it is encountering difficulties with the Palestinians.

According to the agreement, Israel will allow Jordan to sell $30 million-worth of Jordanian goods in the West Bank. The agreement apparently angered the PLO, which took steps to foil it. The Palestinians applied pressure last week during a meeting between a Jordanian delegation, headed by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and a Palestinian delegation, headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Palestinian Authority's minister of culture and information.

A senior Israeli source said that "they (the Jordanians) made us realize that the freeze is the result of the meeting between al-Majali and 'Abd-Rabbuh. Earlier, the Jordanians constantly pressed for the immediate implementation of the trade agreement in the West Bank, but now they have arrangements to make and they do not intend to implement it at this time," he said. A Jordanian source confirmed that the implementation of the agreement is being delayed.

Yesterday, the Jordanian delegates entered with great interest to the briefing on the early empowerment agreement given by Major General Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians. Rothschild arrived at the Dead Sea Hotel, where the talks were held yesterday, immediately after signing the agreement with the Palestinians. The Jordanians reported that the agreement applies to them in many spheres, such as education, and asked for clarifications. Rothschild's invitation was initiated by Dr Elyakim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team negotiating with Jordan. [passage omitted]

According to Rubinstein, Israel and Jordan are willing to hold joint discussions with the Palestinians at the current stage. "Regrettably, no such discussions are being held at this time, but it is essential that they are, and they will be. I am constantly trying to promote discussions in this framework and the Jordanians are responsive. Someone else is dealing with this issue vis-a-vis the Palestinians," Rubinstein said.

"Contrary to the way the Palestinians perceive us, we are not trying to drive a wedge between them and the Jordanians. We do live in a regional reality of suspiciousness, but this delegation is not dealing with Jordan as an antithesis to someone or something else," he said.

"I believe that now that the Washington Declaration exists, there is a balance between Jordanian and Palestinian interests. Previously the Jordanians were concerned, which is being expressed in the relations between them. As for the Jordanians' feelings regarding the resumption of the talks with the Palestinians, I believe they are happy that the dialogue with the PLO has resumed," Rubinstein said.

Israel, Morocco To Open 'Interest Offices'

TA0109071194 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Sep 94 pp 1, 17

[Report by political correspondent Shimon Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Israel and Morocco are due to announce, within a very short period of time, the establishment of relations at the interest offices level in the two countries. This decision was consolidated over the last few days. An envoy of the Moroccan king visited Israel several days ago and met with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres on this issue. In addition, King Hassan and Prime Minister Rabin exchanged detailed letters. Knesset Member Rafi Edri played a key role in the contacts, which included meetings with King Hassan and messages on behalf of the prime minister.

The two countries agreed that the new offices will serve the interests of the two countries, and that this will be a step toward establishing full diplomatic relations. The offices will represent the economic, cultural, and political interests of the two countries, and will serve the 600,000 Israelis of Moroccan origin. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Reportedly Sets Up 'Peace Command'

TA0109071194 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Aug 94 p 6

[Report by Yerudar Peri]

[Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recently reduced the size of his political team negotiating with Israel and has set up a limited "peace command" which convenes in the presidential palace.

The team is made up of senior ministers, known for their close ties with al-Asad, and Syrian army generals, YEDIOT AHARONOT has learned.

The official Syrian line prior to Christopher's arrival in Syria appears to reach a "strategic peace" and not "tactical peace." It was the Egyptians who recommended that the Syrians to cope al-Sadat's pronouncements about "strategic peace," which brought positive reactions from Israel.

The team includes Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' the "implementer" Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the negotiations with Israel; Syria's Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim; two senior army generals; and the head of Syrian intelligence.

YEDIOT AHARONOT has learned from a non-Israeli figure who maintains contacts with Damascus, that al-Asad believes that now that the agreements have been signed with the PLO and Jordan, the main political efforts in Washington and Jerusalem will be focused on the Israeli-Syrian track. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian, Sudanese Presidents Meet in Tripoli

Spokesperson Clarifies Meeting

LD1509014494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] In response to the Libyan news agency's report that a tripartite meeting took place yesterday between

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the leaders of Algeria, Libya, and Sudan after the arrival of the head of state Mr. Liamine Zeroual to Tripoli airport, the spokesman for the presidency, Mr. Mabrouk Mabrouk today made the following clarifications:

The leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the host country, brought the Sudanese president to the welcoming of the head of state. The welcome took place openly and was of a protocol and courtesy nature, and it was confined to talking about the situation. However, it is worthy noting that an official bilateral meeting is expected today between the head of state and the Sudanese president for a frank explanation of the current situation of relations between the two countries, and the necessary conditions to clear them up.

Algiers Reports 'Frank' Talks

LD1108203194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] President Liamine Zeroual met today with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir. The meeting is the first of its kind between the two countries since the Algerian decision at the beginning of last year to recall our ambassador in Khartoum to protest official Sudanese stances and statements described as hostile to Algeria. On this meeting and its atmosphere our colleague Ahmed Fadhli has sent us the following report:

[Fadhli] As was expected an official meeting was held today between President Liamine Zeroual and Sudanese President 'Umar al- Bashir with the aim of having a frank clarification about the state of relations between the two countries and the necessary conditions for their enhancement. At this meeting, an extensive review of the state of relations between Sudan and Algeria was made. It focused on the currently widely circulated stances of some Sudanese leaderships vis-a-vis the situation in Algeria. It was an opportunity to tackle all these in a very frank way between the two presidents.

His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual expressed Algeria's resentment of some declared positions in Sudan that the Algerian people regard as hostile at a time when the Algerian people harbor only feelings of brotherhood and friendship toward the Sudanese people. He said Algeria is keen to establish relations of brotherhood, friendship, and honest cooperation with all brothers within the framework of respect for the essential options of all people and taking into consideration the interests of every side.

Following the meeting the Sudanese president made the following statement to us: The meeting was historic and a good opportunity in which we frankly talked about all the information being circulated about what is happening between Sudan and Algeria. We clarified all the matters that had preoccupied us during the past period. We explained Sudan's position and its unlimited support for Algeria's security and stability and our non-interference, as he put it, in the internal affairs of Algeria.

The Sudanese president also said that the contacts should be continuous. God willing, between Sudan and Algeria to clarify any position or piece of information that might appear in the information or, due and especially in the media hostile to the Arab nation. The Sudanese president concluded his statement by saying, it is a favorable beginning for the resumption of Sudanese-Algerian relations.

Al-Bashir on Talks

LD1109101194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The two presidents, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual held a round of closed discussions at noon today in Tripoli. They discussed ways of strengthening and developing the relations between the two countries that have somewhat slackened in recent times.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the meeting was a good opportunity to discuss frankly all the reports about what is going on between Sudan and Algeria. His excellency described the discussions between him and Zeroual as frank and clear and said: We were able to clarify all relevant issues. He added that he clarified Sudan's stance and its unceasing support for the security and stability of Algeria. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that he assured President Zeroual about Sudan's principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of Algeria and explained that all negative things said about Sudan are attempts by the enemies of the Arab nation to create discord and division in the Arab homeland and strike at Arab unity. His excellency said: We must be careful when we hear such things being said about Sudan in Algeria or about Algeria in Sudan.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that it was necessary for the two countries to be permanently in contact with each other so as to clarify any controversial stance or information that might appear in the media and information organs, particularly in organs that are hostile to the Arab nation. His excellency considered that the meeting was a good start to the resumption of normal relations between Algeria and Sudan.

Recognition of 'Republic of Somaliland' Ruled Out

NC1008194494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, president of the so-called Republic of Somaliland, has met with Ambassador Ahmad Ibn Hala, chief of the Arab League's Arab Department.

During the meeting, they had a detailed discussion of topics the Somali delegation had presented to Arab

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League Secretary General Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid during his meeting with the delegation at the Arab League's headquarters yesterday.

Ibrahim Egal stated that the citizens of northern Somalia are true Arabs, that they have been suffering from not being appointed to key official positions since Somalia got its independence from British colonialism, and that their role in government is being marginalized.

He said that he informed Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid of the stable situation in the north and that politicians, intellectuals, and tribal leaders have unanimously agreed to set up an independent state.

For his part, Ambassador Bin Hala said that the Somali delegation renewed its demand that the Arab League recognize the Republic of Somaliland and provide humanitarian aid and services to enable it to build its state structures.

He added that the delegation raised the issue of the Arab countries' disregard for the Republic of Somaliland and the isolation it is suffering as a result.

The director of the Arab League's Arab Department said that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed to the Somali delegation the Arab League's commitment to Somalia's unity and the need to restore security and stability for all its sons.

The Arab League secretary general also ruled out the idea of recognizing the state of Somaliland, demanding that the security and stability in the north be used to serve the building of a united Somali state and for Somali reconciliation.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid told the Somali delegation that the Arab League places the problem of Somalia high on its list of interests. In addition, the Arab League has worked politically to resolve this crisis and participated in providing it with $100 million in humanitarian aid from the Arab countries.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid criticized the change in Mr Egal's stance on Somali unity. He pointed out that Egal was the main organizer of the national unity conference held in Djibouti in 1991. In addition, 'Abd-al-Majid also denounced Egal's current stand of resorting to secession.

Mr Ahmad Bin Hala clarified that Mr. Egal was convinced by Dr 'Abd-al-Majid's views on Somalia's unity. He affirmed the need to offer financial and humanitarian aid to provide services.

Palestinian Affairs

Minister: Rhetto To Visit Gaza 'as Scheduled'

JN1108151494 Jerusalem Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1417 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] In a statement to our correspondent in Bethlehem, Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities, asserted that Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will pay a visit to the Palestinian National Authority area in Gaza as scheduled, on 4 September, and will meet with President Yasir 'Arafat. Frayj added that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who began a visit to Israel yesterday, interceded with the Israeli Government to solve differences on this issue.

Mr. Frayj was invited to the dinner hosted by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in honor of Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa.

Russia Promises 'Armored Troop Carriers'

JN1108191394 Jerusalem Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1417 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Well-informed Palestinian sources say that a Palestinian delegation will soon leave for Moscow to discuss means of cooperation and development between the Russian Government and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], especially in the fields of elections and domestic training [al-tadrib al-dakhili].

The sources said that Russia has promised to provide the PNA with a number of armored troop carriers and to train Palestinian cadres in Russian military institutions.

It is worth mentioning that Moscow recently expressed its desire to play a basic role in negotiations over Jerusalem.

German Legation Inaugurated in Jericho

JN1108191994 Jerusalem Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1417 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpts] A German legation [mumaththiliyah] was inaugurated in the city of Jericho today in the presence of a number of Palestinian and foreign personalities.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, German Consul Theodore Valau spoke of the importance of opening this legation.

[Begin Valau recording, in English] The connotation is that we want it, the opening of this office, to symbolize the support our government gives to the revitalization, to the reconstruction of the living conditions in this area. We feel that the political courage which was demonstrated in signing the agreements of Washington and Cairo and the following agreements—the agreements which are going to follow—need also the manifestation that the donor community comes in order to help the Palestinian people feel that this political solution also has an effect on their day-to-day living conditions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

On the significance of the German step, Minister of Local Government Sa'ib 'Urayqat spoke to Ahmad Zaki.

[Begin recording] [Zaki] What does the opening of a German legation in Jericho mean?

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[Unnamed] It means the beginning of bilateral cooperation in the technical fields between the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and the European countries, especially those who have no consulates in Jerusalem. These missions are technical. Their main aim is to speed up the implementation of the agreed upon projects, especially the infrastructure. I believe that the presence of this German legation is the first. This will be followed by Russian, Swiss, and Danish missions. As you are aware, President Arafat decided to make Jericho the location of the foreign missions. These missions will strengthen bilateral cooperation and save time and implement the projects on a bilateral manner between the PNA on the one hand and each of the donor states on the other.

[Zaks] In case the Israeli army withdraws, will these missions move to other areas?

[Unnamed] I believe this might happen but I think that the president decided to have them in Jericho. They may continue to be in Jericho until our aim to establish a Palestinian state is realized and these legations are transformed into embassies representing these states in our capital, Jerusalem.

[Zaks] Thank you. [end recording]

German Ambassador Comments

LD2308170694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 94

[Text] Germany today opened the first foreign and office in the autonomous zone in Jericho. The office, staffed with almost five members, will oversee the financial and other aid pledged to the Palestinians by the German Government. German Ambassador to Israel Dr. Franz Bertele spoke to Amy Rhoades about the development.

[Bertele recording] [Bertele] The Cairo agreement of May this year between the PLO and Israel, there it was foreseen that countries assisting in the development of the autonomy can open offices in the autonomous area in order to coordinate what they are doing there. And this is exactly what we did, we opened a representative office of the Federal Republic of Germany in Jericho, which is coordinating our aid, our assistance to these regions of Gaza and Jericho. This is not a diplomatic mission, it's not a consulate, it's a representative office for coordinating the different ways of help which we are approached to give and which we are prepared to give.

[Rhoades] Can this be seen as a precursor to the opening up of a diplomatic office, such as an embassy, in the autonomous area?

[Bertele] No, we are talking now not about the future. We are talking about present time, as it we opened up an office with a technical character and which is coordinating the help from our country. [end recording]

Deputy Speaker Rules Out Early PNC Meeting

LD1908115094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Salim al-Za'nun (Abu-al-Adib), deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stated that the next PNC meeting will be held after the Israeli side implements its commitments it has been trying to evade. Al-Za'nun made three conditions for holding the next PNC session. They include completion of the establishment of the Palestinian authority in the rest of the West Bank and giving all PNC members full freedom to enter as citizens not as visitors. They also included such points as election of PNC representatives inside [the occupied territory] and making the session an ordinary one with a complete agenda not just predetermined items.

Al-Za'nun stressed the need for assessments of the peace process since the 1988 session, the PNC's authorization to the Central Council to proceed with the peace process, and the commitments made by the PLO regarding some articles of the charter.

Abu-al-Adib denied any possibility of convening a PNC meeting without the necessary quorum (two-thirds). He said that the 1984 session in Amman would not have been held had there been no quorum. Al-Za'nun praised Faysal al-Husaynī's call for the release of the detainees before the PNC meeting. He expressed the view that some of those who are to be released will succeed in the PNC elections and become members.

The PNC's deputy and acting speaker denied that a PNC meeting is under consideration at present. Al-Za'nun (Abu-al-Adib) said that the messages exchanged between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke of the need to implement the Oslo agreement before the PNC meets.

Abu-al-Adib played down the possibility that the memorandum of the 171 figures might obstruct a PNC meeting. He said that only 17 percent of the signatories were PNC members and that the veto against a PNC meeting was illegal and there was nothing in the PNC bylaws to support it.

In conclusion, al-Za'nun said that only the Executive Committee and the PNC Presidency had the authority to determine the time and place of the PNC meeting. He said there should be no fears concerning the holding of a PNC meeting when the circumstances are ripe.

PLF Official Sets Terms

LD1608141494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 7

[Text] Ramallah—Riyad al-'Abd, member of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] led by Abu-al-'Abbas, has stressed that the PLF categorically rejects the convocation of a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Gaza before a complete withdrawal of

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Israeli forces from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and Israeli implementation of all international legitimacy's resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, al-Abid emphasized that Israel's commitment to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories and the unconditional release of all Palestinian and Arab prisoners irrespective of their political affiliations and ideologies are the criteria that will determine the seriousness of Israeli commitment to making peace with the Palestinian people.

Al-Abid said that such a climate will allow the holding of legislative elections in a democratic manner with the participation of all strata of the Palestinian people and their national, democratic, and Islamic forces. At that time it will be possible to convene a PNC session to discuss all issues that concern the people and which are linked to the national destiny.

Al-Abid added that unless these conditions are met, any PNC meeting at the current stage will mean that the purpose of the session will be limited to obtaining the members' approval to annul the National Charter and ratify all that has been implemented from the Oslo and Cairo agreements. This is rejected by the PLO.

Hamas Spokesman Reports on Talks in Lebanon

JN1108071294 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 30 Aug-1 Sep 94 p 15

[Report by Ahmad Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Excerpts] As part of its political and diplomatic moves, and after meeting with Libyan and Syrian leaders this year, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, sent a high-level delegation to Lebanon last week to meet with several political leaders there. [passage omitted]

Asked by AL-SABIL about the delegation's visit to Lebanon, Hamas spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah said: "The Hamas movement has made it clear that the Palestinian people refuse to be settled or evicted, and we will not accept any homeland other than Palestine. However, the Lebanese Government is duty bound to ensure the civil and human rights of the Palestinian people in Lebanon until they return to the land of Palestine. The Hamas delegation and his excellency the prime minister discussed issues pertaining to the future of the self-rule and elections. [Lebanese Prime Minister] Al-Hariri focused on the need for Hamas to maintain its responsible political balance, not to be drawn into inter-Palestinian fighting, and to benefit from lessons learned from the Lebanese civil war that destroyed Lebanon for 15 years. The delegation also met the interior minister and the minister of refugees affairs. On the next day, the two ministers expressed strong sympathy with Hamas' struggle and resistance in Palestine. For his part, Walid Junblat announced that certain Lebanese forces are awaiting the signing of the reconciliation accord and normalization of relations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in order to launch a fascist, racist campaign against Muslims and Palestinians. The delegation also exchanged views with Shaykh Muhammad Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, on the dangers threatening the nation. He praised Hamas, described it as rational, and urged it not to abandon its policy. They also discussed the need for coordination between Islamic and pan-Arab forces in the face of the Zionist danger. Muhammad Fadlallah [Hizballah spiritual leader] also welcomed the delegation and announced his satisfaction with its political performance and struggle, and said that the movement's political performance is better than its militant performance and that it managed to deal effectively with the requirements and crises of the past stage wisely, courageously, and with flexibility, without breaching the principles of the movement." [passage omitted]

APF Reacts to Housing Palestinians in Lebanon

JN1008193194 Clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Aug 94

["Text" of statement by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, APF; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Lebanese arena is witnessing a political debate and there have been many statements and reactions following the announcement of a project to house a number of displaced Palestinians in the Lebanese army—Palestinians who were forced by the previous war situation to leave their camps in Tall al-Za'tar, Jisr al-Basha, and 'Dbayah, and who were deprived of the possibility of returning to their previous centers.

While it commends the initiative by [Lebanese] Minister [of Refugee Affairs] Walid Junblat, the APF regrets and rejects these statements and, within this context, would like to emphasize the following.

1. The Palestinian people and their national forces have expressed their stand, which rejects such a settlement. They have stressed and continue to stress their adherence to their homeland and adherence to their right to return to it.

2. At the same time, while the APF stresses its rejection of such a settlement, it also stresses its rejection of displacement and dispersion, which some Palestinian families in Lebanon are facing. We urge all those concerned to cooperate in order to find an appropriate humane solution for many thousands of displaced Palestinian families.

3. Housing the displaced Palestinian families is a demand and a human and social right. It is one of the human rights that constitute part of the civil and social rights of which the Palestinian people in Lebanon are still deprived.

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4. The APF demands permission to launch the process of building in the camps, improve the infrastructures of these camps, and provide services needed for a decent life. At the same time, the alliance demands that the Palestinians in Lebanon be restored their civil and social rights, including the rights to work and to education.

5. The APF aspires for the reinforcement and deepening of brotherly ties which developed between it and its brothers among the Lebanese people. The alliance hopes that all national forces and Lebanese figures and officials will do everything to maintain the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and to enable the Palestinian people to continue their struggle to restore their rights and return to their homeland.

[Signed] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces.

'Arafat To Visit Qatar for Aid Resumption

[Unidentified Amman ALRAI AL 'AM in Arabic 5 Sep 96 p 1]

[Text] Amman, 'ALRAI AL 'AM'—'ALRAI AL 'AM' has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will, in the next few days, pay a visit to the State of Qatar, the first since the Gulf crisis. Palestinian sources in Amman told 'ALRAI AL 'AM' that President 'Arafat will discuss with the emir of Qatar the resumption of Qatari aid to the PLO and collecting the funds deducted by Qatar from the salaries of Palestinian workers in Qatar, which are estimated at tens of millions of dinars.

The sources said 'Arafat might also pay a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], having met recently with Shaykh Zayid in Switzerland.

'ALRAI AL 'AM' has learned that three weeks ago the UAE stopped making deductions from the salaries of the Palestinian workers. 'Arafat's visit is an attempt to get the UAE to resume these deductions and give the money to the PLO to spend on the self-rule area through the Palestinian authority. Palestinian sources expect Faysal al-Husayni and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh to accompany 'Arafat.

Security Chief Denies Struggle Among Agencies

[Unidentified Arabic AL QUDS in Arabic 11 Sep 96 p 4]

[Report by Kamilya Salami]

[Excerpt] Jericho—Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, head of preventive security in the National Authority's Jericho region, has stated that there is no basis to the existence of a struggle between agencies of the National Authority brought to the minds of some people. Al-Rujub said: "We in preventive security have no quarrel with anyone in the national ranks who is working to build a state of institutions and law. However, individuals who had a leading role in the intifadah and the peace process must be the pillars of this state. We shall endeavor so that those who struggled are given priority within framework of the law in participating in the state's institutions and agencies. At the same time we shall foil any attempt by those who stood against our people to infiltrate into these agencies and institutions. This is a matter of principle that must be understood by everyone. It is a red line. Any attempt at circumvention by some of those who were in the country's camps before 13 September 1993 will be doomed to failure, because anything based on falsehood is doomed to failure." [passage omitted]

Shu'th Denied Entry to Hebron Cave of Patriarchs

[Unidentified Arabic Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1030 GMT 11 Sep 96]

[Text] Dr. Nabil Shu'th, the chief Palestinian negotiator, today visited the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, but was prevented from entering the site. Shu'th, accompanied by Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, angrily declared that the security renovations now in progress at the site constitute what Shu'th described as a violation of the Muslim faith. Shu'th added, however, that he agrees there is a need for renovation at the site in order to prevent a recurrence of a massacre like the one in February.

DFLP Activists Call For Ending Oslo Agreement

[Unidentified Arabic Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1030 GMT 11 Sep 96]

[Text] Six members of Nayif Hawatmah's Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine—DFLP], whom Israel allowed into the Gaza Strip today, have called for bringing about the end of the implementation of the Oslo agreement. They rejected an invitation to attend the meeting of the Palestine National Council in Gaza, saying it should not be convened in the shadow of the Israeli conquest and the settlements, as they put it.

Islamic Movement Leader Proposes Talks With PNA

[Unidentified Arabic AL QUDS in Arabic 10 Sep 96 pp 1, 10]

[Report by Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Shaykh Hasan Abu-Kuwayk, a leader of the Islamic Movement in the West Bank, demand that the coordination under way between the Islamic Movement and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] means moving away from other Palestinian opposition factions.

Abu-Kuwayk said that the Islamic Movement acts within the framework of priorities, at the top of which are achieving internal Palestinian social peace and working with all cadres and factions to safeguard rights and achievements and protect the Palestinian people's legitimate and historic national constants.

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He added that from this position, the Islamic Movement has tried and is trying to coordinate and consult with all Palestinian factions, whether in the opposition or not, on the basis of cooperating on what we agree on and having amicable means on which we disagree. He stressed that rapprochement or meeting with one faction will not be at the expense of another.

Shaykh Abu-Kuwayk proposed a several-point program which would constitute the basis of meetings between the Islamic Movement and the national forces, including the PNA. Some of the program's important clauses are:

—Fostering internal social peace in the ranks of the Palestinian people and building a cohesive and cooperative domestic front on the basis of party and combat against crime and oppression.

—Respecting the sanctity of Palestinian blood, prohibiting infighting, and avoiding internecine clashes regardless of the motives and causes.

—Promoting civil and political freedoms and safeguarding human rights as guaranteed by the noble Islamic religion as well as by all heavenly religions and humanitarian charters and laws that are recognized by the civilized international community.

—Agreeing that the Washington, Cairo, and Oslo agreements and the ensuing implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho do not meet the maximum rights, hopes, and aspirations of the Palestinian people. Therefore, the Palestinian people are totally free to struggle until they obtain their freedom and achieve all their legitimate and historic rights on the soil of their homeland and independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, and until the refugees and deportees are repatriated.

—The social, cultural, and economic construction of the Palestinian society must be based on the principle of equal opportunities, placing the right man in the right place, and fighting corruption, indiscipline, and decadence. It must also be based on reinforcing the principle of consultation and democracy, safeguarding the work of institutions in a united and democratic way devoid of monopoly and domination, rejecting the principle of coercion, and governing by means of democratic and fair elections through the ballot boxes.

—Attaching the utmost importance to the issue of the prisoners and detainees, working seriously for their release irrespective of their political affiliations, and rejecting the policy of discrimination practiced by the Israeli authorities against the sons of the Islamic Movement.

Shaykh Abu-Kuwayk reiterated the Islamic Movement's position rejecting participation in the PNA. He said that under no circumstances will the Islamic Movement participate in the self-rule authority. "As there are vital and social issues which concern the Palestinian people's security, present, and future. We have to meet and reach understanding over them.

Abu-Kuwayk called on the PNA to show goodwill toward the Islamic Movement's tendencies in the dialogue and in the understanding. He said: "True, there are political differences, but in return there are many issues over which we must reach agreement and understanding."

Abu-Kuwayk lauded the self-restraint displayed by the Islamic Movement and the fact that it did not act unilaterally with the issue of the PNA's detention of some of the Islamic Movement's members. He said: "Despite the gravity of the event, we in the Islamic Movement, out of our intense concern for the Palestinian people's units and for the extension of peace and harmony among the sons of the Palestinian people, reject any clash or infighting. God forbid, and affirm the sanctity of Palestinian blood."

Authority To Issue Import Licenses Begins

TA2908130594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] Palestinians will be able to issue import licenses as of today, Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Yoni Sher announced yesterday.

The decision was made over the weekend following a meeting between Sher and the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Economics and Trade director-general Samir Hulaylah.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade's economic committee coordinator, Yoni Sherlon, explained that from now on the PA will be able to decide whether to approve import licenses for food, construction materials, chemicals, fertilizers and electric appliances under the rules agreed upon in the Paris economic agreement.

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Algeria

Further Reaction To Moroccan Border Closure, Visas

Parties Comment

LD3108172194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The reactions of political parties to the recent Moroccan decision [to impose entry visas for Algerian nationals] are continuing. Today the National Liberation Front [FLN] expressed its deepest concern at the resulting violation of the security of Algerians.

The Ettahadi party for its part expressed its regret over its current crises and pointed out the concerns resulting from nationalist chauvinism, which is inconsistent with the needs of peace, stability, and brotherhood between the two peoples.

As for the National Democratic Socialist Party [al-hizb al-watani al-dimuqrati al-ishtiraki] it has strongly condemned this Moroccan decision and said that it is satisfied with the Algerian authorities' decision to apply the principle of reciprocal treatment.

Militants Threaten 'Jihad'

NC3108181194 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Paris, Aug 31 (AFP)—The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of Algeria's resistant movements, proclaimed Wednesday [31 August] to launch a holy war against Morocco after the country instituted an entry visa requirement for Algerians.

"Either the king repents or the GIA will launch a jihad (holy war) without delay," the GIA threatened in a statement received by AFP, in the second threat by Algerian Moslem militants in two days.

The GIA claimed the decision by the Moroccan king was "the crazy dealings of Satan," adding that it was not the first act of treason committed by the Moroccan king against the Moujahedin, or Islamic holy fighters.

The group criticized Morocco for having turned over Mouajahedin chief Abdelhak Layada, known as Abou Adame, to Algerian authorities in March 1993.

Layada, one of the first GIA leaders, was extradited to Algeria in August. He was sentenced to death by an Algerian special court.

On Tuesday the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) called for the establishment of an Islamic state in Morocco as well as Algeria.

"Only the installment of an Islamic state in Morocco as well as Algeria will allow our people to live in prosperity, tranquility, solidarity, fraternity and peace," said a statement issued in Paris.

Dinar Gains

LD3108024794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Among the repercussions of the Moroccan authorities' decision to impose an entry visa on Algerians has been a relative revival in the value of the Algerian dinar. One dirham is now equivalent to four dinars, whereas before the crisis it was equivalent to 12 dinars in the parallel market. It is to be recalled that the value of the dinar had decreased continuously since the opening of the borders with Morocco.

Parties To Coordinate Positions, Unify Strategy

LD3108024794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpt] According to some sources, this weekend might be used by the political parties that accepted President Liamine Zeroual's invitation to resume national dialogue to coordinate their positions and unify their strategy in view of 5 September [date of resumption of dialogue]. Other sources said this period might be used by these political formations to approach the parties that refused to join the dialogue table in order to persuade them to go back on their decision so everybody will be able to make known their preoccupations in all transparency and clarity. The Socialist Forces Front said that it received invitations from some parties to meet them, primarily the National Liberation Front and the HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement]. According to its acting secretary general, the front leaves the door open to meeting all the political parties, and it has not taken a clear position concerning participation on 5 September [passage omitted].

FIS Leader Reportedly Accepts 4 Dialogue Points

LD3108185194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Qanawi Saleh al-Darwish in Algiers]

[Text] Reliable Algerian sources have told our radio that Abassi Madani sent a letter to President Liamine Zeroual three days ago including a clear and frank answer to the dialogue proposals. According to Radio Monte Carlo sources, Madani announced in the letter that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has accepted the four points President Zeroual has made a basis and condition for dialogue, such as respect for the constitution and the republican system of state and ensuring the possibility of taking turns in power.

Madani's only conditions as enunciated in his letter was releasing all the FIS leaders and members. As for stopping violence, he noted the possibility of declaring a truce by the two sides, the Army and the armed groups, simultaneously in order to create a new atmosphere for opening a serious dialogue to draw up a future picture that will extricate Algeria from its troubles.

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With this letter Madani has broken his silence, having left for his comrade Ali Belhadj the task of answering the proposals of the regime.

No doubt, the letter Madani sent in his capacity as the FIS leader is the most positive gesture issued by the FIS concerning the dialogue.

The presidency shrouded the letter in secrecy and kept silent pending President Zeroual's return from Libya. The president might want to keep this letter up his sleeve in order to reveal it on 5 September as his winning card in his dialogue with the other parties.

GIA Threatens FIS Leaders Tempted by Dialogue

LD1308193294 Paris Radio France Internationale in French 1830 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] In Algiers, the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] has issued a new warning, quote: To the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leaders and what is called the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], against negotiating with the enemy for mere crumbs, end quote. The GIA is threatening reprisals against FIS leaders who are tempted by dialogue. Let me remind you that on Sunday [28 August] a third FIS official was released after spending 18 months in prison.

'Islamic Tendency' Urged To Stand Against Violence

LD1108213694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Another politician, Hocine Ait Ahmed, the secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has also spoken on the subject of the dialogue. In a news conference he held in Belgium, Hocine Ait Ahmed asked the leaders of the Islamic tendency to distance themselves from the radical and violent currents. I quote: If the Islamic tendency cannot be ignored, the leaders of this tendency, on the other hand, will not be credible unless they clearly assume their responsibility in favor of an accord against violence and in favor of cultural pluralism and alternation of power between political parties.

Hocine Ait Ahmed concluded his news conference by saying, I quote: There is an opportunity. Algeria should be able to end the series of wasted opportunities. Finally, Hocine Ait Ahmed called for the establishment of a democratic bloc as the only guarantee of a peaceful solution to the crisis.

FFS Official Calls For Comprehensive Dialogue

LD1108211294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Five days before the date set for the next round of national dialogue, our political arena is witnessing extensive activities to coordinate positions and propose the appropriate solutions to get out of the crisis. More details from Nabela Khaterlia.

[Khaterlia] Acting FFS [Socialist Forces Front] Secretary General Saad Khalil has called for a transitional government emanating from a comprehensive national dialogue. Its single task would be to organize pure and clean elections without excluding any party. In a statement published today in the daily EL MASSA, Saad Khalil said that his party was asking for a comprehensive national dialogue with the participation of all the political forces without exception as a framework for studying the crisis.

He attributed his party's boycott of the dialogue, which the authorities began with the parties on the 21 August, to the conditions set by the authorities that only the security and political situation would be studied, without touching on the economic situation, particularly the agreements concluded with world financial institutions.

On the participation of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in the dialogue, Khalil said that the current political reality made the participation of this party incumbent in order to achieve a halt to the bloodshed within a comprehensive political framework. [passage omitted]

Ennahda Leader Interviewed on Dialogue

NC3108091194 Cairo AL AHRAM in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with Ennahda Party leader Abdallah Djaballah by Hesham Fahim in Algiers, date not given]

[Text] [Fahim] Why did your party boycott the previous rounds and participate in the most recent round of dialogue?

[Djaballah] Our party was the first to call for resolving the crisis through a serious, all-embracing, and in-depth dialogue with all political powers, regardless of their intellectual and party affiliations. This stance largely helped enlist advocates for that dialogue who prepared for it and outlined its objectives, topics, and conditions for success.

However, we boycotted the national dialogue seminar last January because we found out during many meetings with the highest levels of authority that they wanted the seminar to be their gateway to gaining the various parties' support for the institutions and policies they had already determined unilaterally so that they could justify their actions to the public through what they called the transitional period. We agreed to participate in the recent round of talks because we felt that it would be a serious and responsible one and that it would culminate in bold and daring decisions that address the essence of the crisis.

[Fahim] What is your party's vision of a solution that can really work?

[Djaballah] In essence, the Algerian crisis is of a political nature. To us, the solution does not lie in transitional or interim institutions or a security-based approach. It lies

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to the adoption of certain policies capable of developing a rudimentary and comprehensive treatment of the situation. This should start with a clear and final settlement of the general principles that govern the state structure on the basis of established social values and the goal of the revolution as outlined in the 1 November 1954 statement. This comes through the initiation of a conscientious, serious, and responsible dialogue that excludes no one; the abandonment of violence in handling disagreements; the release of political prisoners and return of all dismissed employees to their jobs; enabling the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to take part in containing the existing crisis; stepping up efforts to restore normal political and media life; curbing the emergency state in preparation for lifting it; endorsing a return to the electoral approach as soon as possible and in a climate of freedom that allows the people to choose freely between the various political programs presented; and making the Army stay neutral and protect the people's choice in the elections.

[Fahmi] Will your participation in the current round open the road before you to join the transitional institutions, including the National Council (which acts as a parliament)?

[Djaballah] We refused to take part in the national reconciliation seminar that produced the transitional institutions because we were convinced of the uselessness of these institutions in the form stipulated in the seminar's document. This made it incumbent on us to boycott the National Transitional Council. We have no intention to take part in it today, since the reasons for boycotting it still exist. The movement views transitional institutions as mere structures that help the state guarantee success for the policies it pursues in handling the crisis.

[Fahmi] What is your position, as an Islamic political party, on the proposals made by some secular, so-called democratic parties, particularly Francophile parties, to exclude the Islamists from dialogue?

[Djaballah] The Western-oriented, secular, Francophile stream remains largely in control of most decision-making and has the means to influence public opinion. This stream has adopted a policy of exclusion and ostracism against the nationalist-Islamist stream. It fought the principle of the sovereignty of Islam, discouraged party, and did not respect the rules of republican government. It failed to provide justice and security, did not protect the people's basic rights, and advocated separating this nation from its culture and heritage. The current unrest is the result of its policies. Our party has often warned of the danger that this stream represents for our society's firm principles and sovereignty. We advocated the participation of every social force, regardless of its policies, in solving the current crisis. We believe the Islamic stream is a basic number in the country's political equation. Experience shows that the nation's hopes lie in achieving its legitimate aspirations for unity, liberation, economic development, and a return to its origins. Any call to exclude the Islamist stream is a threat to these aspirations, democracy, and human rights.

[Fahmi] What is your party's position on political violence and the assassination or kidnapping of foreigners?

[Djaballah] With the grace of God, Islam, which we are proud to belong to, bans injustice and aggression and encourages justice, charity, and respect for contracts and treaties. It specifies when war is legal, including the need to repulse aggression and fight unjust people. It established controls for such occasions to ensure that war, if it occurs, should be a means of ending injustice, aggression, deviation, and corruption. Islam bans killing those who flee the battle and those who are wounded. It proscribes ill treatment of prisoners and cutting down trees during war. It makes it obligatory to protect refugees until they reach safety. It makes it obligatory to choose peace if the enemies also choose it. Islam encourages charity, even to infidels, gives special value to people of the book, and safeguards human rights in a comprehensive and balanced way. We must abide by these principles and reject any violations of them.

[Fahmi] Is your party willing to mediate between the FIS and the authorities, considering that you have good relations with both?

[Djaballah] Our party has done its duty by encouraging the authorities to start a dialogue with the FIS. This dialogue started in January 1994 and two FIS members, Bu Khamkham and Ali Djadi [names as published], were released as a helpful gesture. There is no need for further mediation. Still we are willing to extend any necessary assistance. We have made many efforts and are willing to do more when we have an opportunity to meet the authorities or the FIS.

Confirms FIS Contacts

LD3108194794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cherif Abdallah Djaballah, the Ennahda movement leader, has confirmed contacts held with Dardib and Boukhamkham, two officials of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] who were released last February. He underlined the need to take measures liable to reassure the Algerians and also to expand the national dialogue. [passage omitted]

Fire Destroys Stock in Market's Distribution Unit

LD3008172194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] A huge fire broke out last night at the distribution unit of Maouaro's Algerian galleries [supermarket] in Tlemcen. The fire caused extensive losses and destroyed all stored goods. The security services said that an investigation has been opened to find out the cause of this fire.

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Gendarmes Arrest 2 Armed Men Disguised as Women

LD1108204094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The national gendarmerie announced today that it has arrested two armed persons in the Gare de Constantine in Ain Nadja. These two men had been lying in wait for a national security official. So that they would not attract attention and could walk around normally, the two men had disguised themselves in women's clothes and wore women's robes to mislead the security forces. But this did not prevent the men of the national gendarmerie from recognizing them despite their convincing disguise, and they were arrested on the spot. [passage omitted]

After the two were arrested, two automatic pistols and a sawed-off shotgun were found in their possession. For your information, one of these pistols had belonged to the assassinated governor of Tissemsilt.

Egypt

'Sources' Confirm Iraqi 'Message' on Reconciliation

JN0309111294 London AL-HAYAH AL-'ALMI in Arabic 1 Sep 94 pp 1, 17

["Exclusive" unattributed report from Cairo: "Iraqi-Moroccan Mediation, Egyptian-Iraqi Rapprochement Surprises Gulf States"]

[Text] Sources close to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak have confirmed that an Iraqi envoy delivered a message to the Egyptian leadership from the Iraqi leadership. The message asks for reviving initiatives for Arab reconciliation and removing the differences that arose in the wake of the second Gulf war, in addition to intensifying efforts to have the Iraq blockade lifted.

The message said Iraq had dropped the Kuwait card, explicitly recognized Kuwait's sovereignty and independence, and expressed willingness to resolve the problem of the missing Kuwaitis. The message added that Iraq had fully complied with all UN resolutions.

In another development, an Egyptian source said the Iraqi message prompted President Mubarak to travel to Geneva and meet Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates. Mubarak told Shaykh Zayid that the Iraqi message was sincere and that Iraq would fulfill its obligations.

The source added that the secret behind the Egyptian-Iraqi rapprochement is that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states have wrangled out of their commitments toward Egypt in accordance with the Damascus agreement. Direct contact between Baghdad and Cairo came as a surprise to the Gulf rulers, especially Kuwait, which has not yet absorbed the Egyptian shock.

The GCC states were surprised by the new Egyptian position, brought about successfully by Baghdad.

The Egyptian source added that Morocco had played an important role in bringing the Egyptian and Iraqi views closer during the visit of [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz to Morocco and his meeting with the Egyptian ambassador to Morocco. 'Aziz asked the Egyptian ambassador to convey the Iraqi initiative and to allow an Iraqi envoy to head for Cairo to explain the initiative.

Paper Confirms No Message Received From Saddam

NC1108165094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has confirmed that President Hosni Mubarak has not received any message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and that the reports about an Arab reconciliation with Baghdad are baseless.

The paper says in tomorrow's edition that had President Mubarak received such a message from the Iraqi president, he would have then informed the custodian of the two holy mosques, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and all the Arab leaders who have adopted a united principled stand at the start of the Gulf crisis.

It notes that such a message would open the way for dialogue and coordination between these countries if there is a change or stands that would underline Iraq's commitment to the Security Council resolutions and also its commitment to refrain from any aggression against any fraternal country and not to interfere in other countries' affairs in addition to a declaration that it will comply fully with the Arab League resolutions.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that Egypt and its president do not act covertly and that such "vital and fateful" issues cannot be covered up or dealt with in secret but should be discussed publicly and openly because they concern all the Arab countries.

The paper stresses that President Mubarak and [United Arab Emirates President] Shaykh Zayid did not discuss at all this "so-called initiative" during their talks in Geneva last week. It says: Had they discussed such an initiative, the president would have held similar and immediate contacts with the custodian of the two holy mosques, Shaykh Jabir, and President al-Asad in view of the importance of this vital issue.

The paper then notes that Egypt does not understand what the purpose of raising this issue by certain sources is, either those in Kuwait or in Jordan, at this particular time. These sources are fully aware of Egypt's firm principles on this issue and they know that it never operates covertly and that it is not a country that says one thing behind closed rooms but says the opposite in public.

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SC 0908 GMT stresses that Egypt and all the rational Arab countries are trying to clear the Arab atmosphere and heal the Arab split with all possible means and ways. But, it adds, this should be done in accordance with sound and correct Arab principles so that it will be possible to reunite the Arab ranks according to new bases that are in line with Arab, international, and regional principles imposed by the current conditions in the world and the Arab nation.

The paper denies the press reports that President Mubarak's recent meeting with Shaykh Zayd in Geneva dealt with an Iraqi initiative and that President Mubarak has received a written message from the Iraqi president asking for Egypt's help in clearing the Arab atmosphere and closing the Gulf crisis file.

Mubarak Phones Saudi King, Kuwaiti Amir

SC 0908 GMT 94 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak at noon today held two telephone conversations, one with Saudi King Fahd Bin Abd-al-Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the other with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Arab and regional developments and the current efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere were discussed during the two telephone conversations.

Albanian Defense Minister Visits, Holds Talks

Arrives in Cairo

SC 2000 GMT 94 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Albanian Defense Minister Safet Zhulali arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of a few days at the invitation of Field Marshal Muhammad Hussein Tantawi, general commander of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production.

The two ministers will hold talks on military cooperation between the two countries.

The Albanian minister was received on arrival by Major General Uthman Shahin, commander of the central military zone, and the Albanian embassy staff.

Military Talks Begin

SC 2000 GMT 94 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, received Albanian Defense Minister Safet Zhulali at the Defense Ministry today. Zhulali is on an official visit to Egypt that will last several days.

Following an official reception during which the Albanian minister reviewed an honor guard, official military talks between Tantawi and Zhulali began. They discussed ways of promoting military cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting Marshal Tantawi affirmed that Egypt continuously seeks to develop military cooperation with numerous countries on the basis of mutual respect and trust with the aim of maintaining security and stability.

The Albanian defense minister said his country wishes to forge stronger ties of friendship and cooperation with Egypt. He noted Egypt's persistent quest for regional peace and its efforts to attain a peaceful solution in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and several senior officers attended the talks. A high-level military delegation also attended the session on the Albanian side.

Sees Mubarak

SC 1900 GMT 94 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—This evening President Hosni Mubarak received Albanian Defense Minister Mr Safet Zhulali who is currently visiting Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Muhammad Hussein Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, and the Albanian ambassador in Cairo.

Concludes Visit

SC 1000 GMT 94 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Albanian Defense Minister Safet Zhulali left Cairo today at the end of a visit that lasted several days. During his visit, he held talks with Field Marshal Muhammad Hussein Tantawi, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production. He also visited educational establishments and military industrial plants.

Musa Discusses Sudan, Iraq, Israel, ICPD

SC 1600 GMT 94 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister Amr Musa has said that there is considerable disagreement between Egypt's policy and that of Sudan. We disagree with Sudan's political orientation, he stated.

In an interview with the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR which will appear in its Friday [2 September] issue, Minister Musa said that there are strong doubts, both in the Arab world and outside it, about Sudan.

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Musa said that with a country that comes under criticism from the entire world and faces numerous changes, it is time for it to do some rethinking.

Concerning Sudanese mistreatment of Egyptians and Egyptian property in Khartoum, Musa said that Egyptian teachers, engineers, and diplomats should never be treated in this way. He added that these measures, however, will not make us retaliate against our Sudanese brothers in Egypt. The Sudanese should always feel at home in Egypt and we will never turn against them.

The foreign minister said: I was planning to go to Sudan to resume talks but Sudan's vote against Egypt in the East Africa Preferential Trade Area [EAPTA] led to a breakdown in the talks. We in Egypt have consistently refrained from disrupting Sudan's interests in world financial, political, and economic organizations.

Minister Musa said that Egypt has never voted against Sudan's interests in any world forum. We believe that many violations are being committed in Sudan but it is a matter of record that we have never voted against Sudan and this is because we care for the Sudanese people. It is also a matter of record that Sudan voted against Egypt's joining the EAPTA, thus harming our interests.

Concerning Sudan's charge that Egypt embraces all members of Sudanese opposition, Musa said that Egypt gives sanctuary to all Sudanese who want to live in this country, not just the opposition. Those Sudanese who flee Sudan because of their opposition to the Sudanese regime come to Egypt because it is their home, not because they are opposition members. There is the difference, Musa said.

Egypt does not need mediation in its relations with Sudan. Our negotiations with Sudan were halted because they took some radical steps against us, Musa said in reply to a question.

Answering a question on whether Egypt is mediating between Iraq and the Gulf countries, Musa said: "I do not wish to speak about Iraq at this stage at all. I will not comment on this matter for the time being because doing so will not be in the public interest."

Concerning the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, the foreign minister said: We hope this will take place. We find the sanctions vexing, disturbing, and hurtful. Something should be done about them within the framework of UN Security Council resolutions. Musa stated that Iraq should recognize Kuwait as a state and abandon once and for all its claims about the 19th governorate. Once this is done, the situation will rapidly change.

Responding to a question on the furor raised over the ICPD [International Conference on Population and Development], Musa pointed out that the UN General Assembly's choice of Cairo as a venue for the convention of the ICPD indicates appreciation for Egypt and its status on regional and international levels and also indicates that it enjoys security and stability. He said: We have our own views on the ICPD and its activities. It is possible that the ICPD might discuss issues that are not to our liking. We are not among the most influential countries in the world. However, we can accept or reject certain ideas. We may be able to influence certain trends and not others, but we must understand things in this way. He stressed that those who seek to isolate Egypt and pull it backwards will not succeed in imposing their views.

On the international economic summit conference that will convene in Casablanca at the end of October, Musa said that this conference serves as a prelude to discussing the regional situation in general. We are making preparations, discussing, planning, and learning the premises and the goals of the conference.

Responding to a question, Musa stressed that the Arab countries do not need Egypt to talk to Israel, noting that the Arab projects that were proposed to Israel were not proposed to Egypt. If we want projects with Israel we will do so and if we want even more projects we will embark on them but such projects are not yet available.

Musa stressed that Israel should not make any geographic or demographic changes in Jerusalem for the sake of the negotiations. He said that reports that Israel gave jurisdiction and supervision selectively, "such as giving religious custodianship to Jordan, are imprecise." [punctuation as received] He noted that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement shows that Jordan is entitled to religious custodianship, that Israel respects this situation, and that Jordan will be given priority when this issue is discussed. He said: In fact, Israel has not given Jordan anything [sic] because it is not entitled to give this custodianship.

Musa described reports that expediting normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel was a result of reports that the United States impeded certain points of agreement between Egypt and the IMF as nonsense. He stressed that these reports are groundless and fabricated. He said: I as foreign minister have not seen one single paper to this effect and no U.S. official has spoken to me about such a thing. I am quite sure that no other official discussed this issue. It is fabricated.

Asked about U.S. President Bill Clinton's request of the Arab countries to immediately lift the boycott of Israel, Musa said that this is a U.S. point of view, noting that lifting the boycott is linked to comprehensive peace and, at the same time, to sovereign decisions by each country. He said that every country is free to make the decisions that suit it.

Musa denied reports that Israel demanded that Egypt pressure the PLO to change clauses in the Charter calling for the destruction of Israel. He stressed that this report is false and no one has asked us such a thing. He noted that Egypt played a role in specific areas and certain interests, but Egypt has not put pressure on anyone.

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Egypt, he said, played the role of mediator and defender for Palestinian people's rights.

Asked his views of the Israeli proposal demanding secret talks with Syria, Musa said that this issue is up to the two parties and we have no views on this issue. He said: Everyone must understand that we will not poke our nose in every affair.

Answering a question on reports that Israel talks of withdrawal in the Golan and not from the Golan, Musa stressed that withdrawal must be from all the Golan, noting that talk about withdrawal in the Golan, in the sense that withdrawal is partial, would be useless. Withdrawal must be total if Israel wants total peace with Syria, he said. He added: On this issue we totally support the Syrian views that Israeli withdrawal from the Golan must be complete.

Discussing accusations that Egypt supported secession in Yemen on the premise that unity must not be imposed by force, Musa said: We did not support secession but were against the war because its consequences would be bad. He expressed his hope that this page of Yemen's history has been turned once and for all and that Yemen will enter a new era of relations among the Yemenis themselves and on the level of the Arab world.

Mubarak Gets Invitation to Casablanca Summit

NC2708094994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Ambassador Abdelhakem Laraki, envoy of Moroccan King Hassan II, in the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning. The Moroccan envoy, who arrived in Egypt yesterday, said he gave Mubarak a written message from his brother King Hassan II including a formal invitation to President Mubarak to attend the international economic summit on Middle East and North African affairs, which will be held in Casablanca from 30 October to 1 November.

The envoy said that he and President Mubarak discussed international and regional issues of common concern and reviewed the Middle East peace process. President Mubarak, Laraki said, gave him a message of amity, brotherhood, and greetings for King Hassan II.

Somali Faction Leader, Delegation Arrive for Talks

NC2608070294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad Ibrahim Ughal, a leader of a Somali faction, arrived in Cairo this evening, heading a five-member delegation.

The delegation was received on arrival by Ambassador Nasr Farh-al-Rab of the Foreign Ministry's African department.

The delegation's visit is within the framework of the contacts Egypt is making with the parties to the Somali dispute to restore normalcy to Somalia.

Paper Calls For Saddam To Hold Free Elections

NC2708084094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has said that during the past four years, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn did not show any inclination or behave in a way to rectify the damage he caused by invading Kuwait in August 1990. It noted in this regard Saddam Husayn's refusal to return Kuwaiti refugees and detainees to their country.

In its editorial today, the newspaper added that despite the fact that four years have passed since the ill-fated invasion and despite the innumerable losses inflicted on Iraq, the main cause of these catastrophes—Saddam Husayn—is still hoping to find a place for himself among the Arab nation, which he cheated and whose image he distorted before the international community. Nevertheless, he realizes that staying in his position was, and continues to be, the major obstacle preventing the restoration of the world's confidence in Iraq and its refusal to provide any kind of aid despite the desperate needs of the powerless and fraternal Iraqi people.

AL-AKHBAR said that the only way to convince the world of Saddam Husayn's repentance is to hold free elections in Iraq as soon as possible, under strict international and Arab supervision so that the Iraqi people can elect their legitimate representatives and rulers.

Commentary Discusses Iraq's Reconciliation 'Bid'

NC1608150694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Commentary by Ahmad Shahat: "Arab Reconciliation and the Right Way To Go About It"]

[Text] Underlying Egypt's diplomacy is a desire to strengthen Arab solidarity and rid Arab relations of potentially explosive disputes. It is in this context that President Husni Mubarak made repeated attempts to spare Iraq and all the Arabs the dire consequences of a war in the Gulf. The Gulf War was a result of Iraq's miscalculation and its refusal to heed all of 32 messages President Mubarak sent its leaders in a bid to spare it destruction following its invasion of Kuwait.

Efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and achieve Arab reconciliation are once again afoot. Egypt, by deeds and not just rhetoric, is trying to promote Arab reconciliation and open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations, one that would benefit all Arabs. This much was stated by Foreign Minister Amr Musa following a cabinet session in which preparations for the economic summit in Morocco were discussed. Minister Musa said Egypt will remain involved in all Arab issues, particularly that of

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achieving reconciliation. Egypt, Mubarak added, seeks to develop a new form of inter-Arab relations that would benefit all Arabs.

Egypt's efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere intensified during the past few days. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, visited Cairo early this month. Topping the agenda of his talks with President Mubarak was the issue of clearing the Arab atmosphere and achieving Arab reconciliation. A few days ago, President Mubarak met His Highness Shaykh Zayid once again in Geneva and discussed with him the same topic.

Egypt is making a serious and credible effort to mend the ties of the Arab nation and restore Arab solidarity to its former level. In doing this, Egypt remains committed to international legitimacy. It believes that Arab reconciliation must be based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. Reconciliation requires that the wrongdoer admit his mistakes. It also requires the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions, which have the backing of Egypt and the rest of the world.

As far as Iraq is concerned, the path to reconciliation passes through implementation of the UN resolutions. Iraq should declare its recognition of Kuwait's independence and borders, in implementation of these UN resolutions. Iraq should also deal positively with the issue of Kuwaiti missing persons. Such a move would pave the way to ending Iraq's conflict with Gulf countries in general and Kuwait in particular.

Political analysts are divided over Iraq's bid for reconciliation. Some maintain and others dispute Iraq's sincerity. In our view, deeds are the deciding factor. The test of Iraq's sincerity is whether it will make the right decisions and implement UN resolutions concerning Kuwait. Iraq's implementation of international resolutions would be a logical step. It has abandoned its former position, the one thoroughly rejected by the United Nations, as well as by Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

Egypt aims to remove some lingering clouds from the Arab atmosphere. Egypt works to deliver the final proof that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait some four years ago has left behind, like open sores on the Arab body. Once these flash points disappear, matters will return to normal in the Arab World and Arab countries would be free again to work closely and promote the interests of their people.

Security Preparedness Said 'Maximum' for Conference

NC1108134994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Major General Nabih al-Mostagir, [sic] assistant interior minister for security, announced at a news conference today that a maximum state of preparedness has been declared among all security men involved in the protection of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled to open on 5 September. He said 14,000 officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers from the central region and the specialized branches will provide security for the conference. Moreover, he said, a main operations center and 23 secondary operations centers have been established in the country to cover all aspects of security for the conference venue and the movements and trips of the participants at the conference.

Major General al-Mostagir stressed that the security situation in Egypt is stable. He said security preparations began two months ago in accordance with studies and information about the conference.

[45 Countries Due To Participate in ICPD]

NC1108143794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—A total of 175 countries have so far announced that they will be attending the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled to open Monday [5 September].

This was stated by Ayman al-Amir, official spokesman of the United Nations and of the ICPD. He said the United Nations sent invitations to its 184 member states and to eight non-member states enjoying the status of observer.

He said representation at the conference will be at the ministerial level. He noted, however, that some countries, acknowledging the importance of the conference, have decided to upgrade their representation by sending heads of states, heads of governments, or deputy prime ministers in addition to the ministers.

That five or six countries apologized for not participating in the conference does not belittle the importance of attendance, the spokesman said. He explained that from the beginning, Saudi Arabia has not participated in preparatory regional conferences or in the meetings that were held in New York, the latest of which was held in April.

The spokesman was answering a question about Saudi Arabia's nonparticipation in the conference.

Mufti Affirms 'Many Positive Points' of ICPD

NC1108163994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—His Eminence Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, has stressed that the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] neither legalizes nor calls for legalizing sexual perversion. Indeed, he added, the conference warns against perverted sexual relationships that cause AIDS.

In its Friday [2 September] issue, the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR quotes the mufti as saying: After reading

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the program. I believe it contains many positive points that do not conflict with the Islamic shari'ah or the traditional values.

Dr Tantawi noted that one of the program's chapters contains many vague terms that need explanation.

Paper Urges Investing Arab Funds in Middle East

NC2808082394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Aug (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses that Arab funds should ideally be invested in the Arab region, because the latter is the ideal place for these investments. It adds that this would also achieve desired development objectives in light of current economic policies based on backing private investment and market mechanisms.

The paper goes on to say in an editorial today that Arab funds should choose the right environment for investment in view of the dangers they are facing, which are increasing daily as a result of the growing lawlessness of the prevailing world economic order.

AL-AHRAM expresses surprise at the contradiction between declared international policies that aim to pave the way for the evolution of a global capital market based on the free flow of funds and the phenomenon of international embargoes against specific countries or on the funds of a specific country.

The paper refers in this respect to the U.S. Administration's recent decision to add two international banks in which the Libyan Jamahiriya is a shareholder to the list of establishments with which it is forbidden to deal, and notes that this falls within the framework of the embargo imposed on Libya in implementation of Security Council resolutions on the Lockerbie issue.

Gulf Nationals To Be Deported for Heckling Police

NC2908113294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hassan al-Alfi has ordered the deportation of two Arab nationals for calling policemen names as they performed their duty on a Cairo street. The two Arab nationals, Yahya Ali Hasan, a television station director in a Gulf country, and Ahmad Ali Hasan al-Hakeem, television station head of maintenance, were driving their car when a traffic officer ordered them to stop on a Cairo street. They refused. Ambush forces detained the men, who were found to be very intoxicated. The men called a police officer names. The Prosecution Office released both men on 50-pounds bail.

New Oil Field Discovered in Suez Area

NC2908132494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—The Suez Canal Petroleum Company has located a new oil field in the central section of the Suez area. It is the first discovery of its kind since the introduction of three dimensional seismic surveillance technology.

The primary studies of the new discovery have revealed that the amount of reserves is greater than any other found during the past few years.

The new field lies about three kilometers southeast of the offshore October field. Prospectors discovered a petroleum-bearing layer of sand with a thickness of around 900 feet producing daily an average of 5,620 barrels of oil of 38 degree quality [in darkened copy] accompanied by six million cubic feet of gas.

This discovery is expected to step up prospector activities in the Suez Gulf region after ascertaining the success of the new technology.

Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi issued his instructions to Dr. Mostafa Shalaan, director of the General Egyptian Agency for Petroleum, to quickly develop the new discovery and link it to the production facilities at the offshore October field because of its proximity.

Natural Gas Well Discovered in al-Charyid Area

NC1109112794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0859 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has stated that a new natural gas well has been discovered in the al-Charyid area, northwest of the Western Desert, during digs at the al-Charyid-4 well.

Dr. al-Banbi added that a gas-and-condensates-bearing layer 45 meters wide and 7,980 meters deep has been found. When tested it was found to produce 22.7 million cubic feet of gas daily, accompanied by 2,400 barrels of condensate. The new discovery, he emphasized, will speed up the construction of a new gas line across the north of the Western Desert to convey the gas produced from this region and the adjacent areas to the main network on the Nile delta.

Baker Appointed AL-SHA'B Editing Director

NC1008073694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Colleague Mahmud Baker has been appointed editing director of AL-SHA'B newspaper.

Baker, 39, joined AL-SHA'B in March 1981. He published a book on the Gulf war entitled "America's Crime in the Gulf" and has other books under publication.

Libya

Arab League Head Arrives for Anniversary Celebrations

LD0109012394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat Abd-al-Majid arrived in Tripoli this morning to take

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part in the great celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih revolution. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid made the following statement to JANA:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] I am pleased to take part in the 25th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih revolution. I consider this occasion a great occasion not only for the Libyan people but for the whole of the Arab people. [passage omitted]

I also praise the strong, firm, and courageous stances taken by the Libyan people in the face of all the attempts to weaken them—attempts which have failed. The Libyan people have succeeded in facing all these difficulties with courage, wisdom, and capability. I stress that the Arab League will always and forever stand by this people in all circumstances they may face. [end recording]

Joint Communique Issued on Zeroual Visit

LD0109081394 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] A joint Libyan Arab-Algerian communique was issued simultaneously yesterday after a two-day official visit by Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to the Great Jamahiriyah where he took part with the Libyan people in their major celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih revolution.

The following is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of the leader of the revolution, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih revolution, and to join the Libyan Arab people in their happiness, His Excellency Liamine Zeroual, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, embarked at the head of a high-level delegation on an official visit to the Great Jamahiriyah between 22 and 23 Rabi' al-Awal, corresponding to 30 and 31 August, 1994.

The honorable guest was given a brotherly welcome, which expressed the depth of the brotherly ties between the two brotherly peoples and the firmness of the historical relations established by their joint struggle throughout the ages against occupiers and invaders and which was confirmed by their joint vital interests in all aspects.

President Liamine Zeroual expressed his deep appreciation for the elaborate preparations he witnessed, which expressed the cohesion between the eternal revolutions of Fatih of November [in Algeria] and Fatih of September [in Libya]. He said his visit at this particular time carried all expressions of solidarity between the two brotherly people.

Official talks took place between Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi and his brother President Liamine Zeroual, and with the participation of the two countries' delegations. The talks dealt with ways of developing and bolstering brotherly ties in different fields with the aim of achieving integration.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the high level of ties reached between the two countries, at agreements and work programs drawn up, and at achievements by the joint executive committee which would enable reaching development and progress targets, in the interest of the two brotherly people.

The address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual is considered to be a decision and a work program for the executive bodies of the two countries.

The talks also dealt with an overall review of regional, Arab, and international developments where the points of views between the two sides were identical. They stressed the importance of continuing coordination and consultations on these issues. Members from the two delegations—secretaries for the General People's Committees and ministers—attended the talks. On the Algerian side, brothers Mohamed Salah Dembri, foreign minister; Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of the interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform; Ahmed Benbitour, finance minister; Ahmed Attaf, minister delegate to the foreign minister in charge of cooperation and Maghreb affairs; Mohamed Sadi, Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah; Mihoub Mihoubi, diplomatic adviser and government spokesman; (Abdelrezaq Ben Jouili), brigadier in the National Defense Ministry; (Sa'id Fouedi), brigadier commander of the fourth military zone; (Moukhtar Rakik), head of a mission to the presidency; (Hamou Echbir), head of the Arab Maghreb department at the Foreign Ministry; and (Salem Ait Chaalem), deputy director at the Foreign Ministry.

On the Arab Libyan side attending the talks were the brothers the secretaries for the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, for Justice and Public Security, for Unity, Energy, Planning and Finance, and for Health and Social Security. The heads of the department in charge of following up on Arab Maghreb Union affairs, the General People's Committee for Unity, and the economic department at the General People's Committee for Unity also attended the talks.

The two sides expressed their determination to bolster steps taken by the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. The AMU was a strategic gain.

The AMU stressed Maghreb unity on the bases of the charter which set up the union and resolutions reached by the presidency council in their successive sessions to strengthen economic and social links between them and to bring signed agreements into effect within its framework to enable it to achieve its aims for a larger integration and joint developmental projects whose concrete and immediate effects would be evident.

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The two sides discussed the importance of security and stability in the region where states bordered the Sahara. They discussed handling what has emerged from the region through consultations and coordination with those states, and in the light of proposals made by the two countries to achieve stability and security and to strengthen cooperation between the people in the region.

On the Arab sphere, extensive discussions took place on the current Arab situation, the dangers threatening Arab national security from various sides, and the necessity to stop the deteriorating Arab stance to ensure achieving the aims of the Arab League charter and agreements reached under it.

The countries expressed their rejection of all that could harm the supreme national interests of the Arab nation, and attempts to destroy its fundamentals and to influence its present and future.

The two countries stressed their steadfast stance in supporting the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people to regain their land and established rights—getting their lands back and setting up their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

They stressed that the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands posed a continuous threat to the region's security and was an obstacle toward achieving a just and lasting peace.

In studying the situation in the Mediterranean region, the two sides stated their unchanging positions that the Mediterranean Sea must be an ocean of security, peace, and cooperation. They urged a continuation of dialogue and balanced cooperation between countries near it, and strengthening them in the interest of its welfare and progress, and to distance the region from destructive international conflicts. They confirmed the importance of continuing dialogue between the AMU states and their European neighbors to bring about cooperation between them in various fields.

The two sides discussed the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and some Western states. His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual expressed Algeria's solidarity with and support for the brotherly Libyan people in their steadfast stances in confronting the sanctions imposed on them.

They stressed that Algeria had not spared and would not spare any efforts to find a solution to this crisis which was aggravated by the inflexibility of the Western powers in question.

They urged the Security Council to take into consideration the initiatives taken in the framework of the Arab League.

President Liamine Zeroual gave brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi ample explanation on the positive developments in Algeria since the start of the national dialogue to reach a formula which would guarantee Algeria's stability and prosperity.

The leader of the Great al-Fatih revolution stated his support for and encouragement of all that could provide Algeria with security and stability.

In this respect, they condemned all forms of terrorism, violence, and extremism by exploiting Islam on the local and international levels. They considered them a part of the conspiracy plots against the Arab homeland and Islamic regions.

President Zeroual expressed his appreciation for the civilized achievements of the Great al-Fatih revolution and the economic, social and political gains—topped by the establishment of the people's authority, determination, and revolutionary will to advance in all sectors.

President Zeroual expressed his extensive gratitude to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and extended to him an invitation to come to Algeria. Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi accepted the invitation. A date will be set at a later time.

Officials Continue Talks

LD0109083794 Tripoli JANA in English 0809 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, 1 al-Fatih, Jamahiriyah News Agency—A meeting was held yesterday afternoon in Tripoli attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and Mohamed Salah Dembri, the foreign minister of sisterly Algeria.

The meeting discussed and studied the necessary bases for the consolidation and enhancement of bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriya and Algeria towards the realization of complementarity in various fields for the benefit of the brothers in the Great Jamahiriya and Algeria.

Also the meeting dealt with view points and political consultation on a number of Arab and international issues of common interest.

al-Qadhdhafi Holds Talks With Sudanese Leader

LD1109161394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant General al-Bashir has held discussions at his residence in Tripoli with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He and the Libyan leader reviewed relations between the two countries and ways of developing them, the current Arab situation, and Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Also discussed were ways of developing integration organs, joint projects between the two countries, and plans for implementing projects recently approved by the directors of the Sudanese-Libyan company for investment and development.

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Lt Gen al-Bashir also met at his residence in Tripoli with Algerian President Lamine Zeroual, who is participating in celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the 1st September Revolution. Relations between the two countries and issues of common interest were discussed.

Morocco

Government To Open 'Contact Bureau' in Tel Aviv

LD0109014594 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep 01 (MAP)— The Kingdom of Morocco has decided to open a contact bureau in Tel Aviv and authorized the State of Israel to open a similar contact bureau in Rabat, it was officially announced this Thursday.

A statement of the Moroccan Information Ministry said the decision was taken by the Moroccan Government in conformity with contents entailed by the Hague Diplomatic Convention.

Visas Said Not Required for Resident Algerians

LD1509161594 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep 11 (MAP)—Moroccan authorities announced Tuesday that no entry visa will be required from Algerian nationals legally settled in Morocco and Algerian or Algerian-born spouses of Moroccan nationals. A statement of the Ministry of the Interior said Algerians legally settled in Morocco will continue to enjoy guarantees of the settlement convention, likewise Algerian or Algerian-born spouses of Moroccan nationals will not be required to produce a visa for entry to Morocco.

The ministry also said visa applications will be handled promptly. The statement explains that the recent and serious armed attacks and the seizure in Morocco of weapons held by foreigners have forced Moroccan authorities to impose a visa requirement on Algerians and Algerian-born foreigners. This measure, went on the statement, only means to preserve the country's security and the safety of nationals and visitors and of their goods. It only meant to bar the way to ill-intentioned persons, criminals, wrongdoers and trouble-makers, said the source.

Morocco decided last Friday to require entry visas from all Algerians and Algerian-born foreigners following the arrest of members of an armed group and in a bid to catch the authors of the attack Wednesday of a hotel in Marrakech. Two Spanish tourists were killed when three masked gunmen sprayed the lobby of a luxury hotel in Marrakech with automatic weapons fire before making off with 10,000 dirhams (1,130 US dollars).

King Hassan Receives U.S. Jewish Businessman

LD1108203194 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] This afternoon at Skhirat Palace His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and chairman of one of the major investment banks in the United States of America, Mr. Pollack is also chairman of the London group of prominent Arab and Jewish businessmen.

During this audience, his majesty the king carried with Mr. Pollack the subject of the economic summit on North Africa and the Middle East, which will be hosted in Casablanca under the chairmanship of the king from 30 October.

The audience was attended by his majesty's advisers, Ahmed Reda Guedira, Driss Slaoui, and Andre Azoulay and the Finance and Investment Minister Mourad Cherif.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Suspends Media Campaign Against Egypt

LD1509163094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir president of the Republic, has directed that the media campaign against Egypt be suspended, effective today. This is according to Culture and Information Minister Abd-al-Rasul Sahdarat. He said the directive was the result of the efforts made by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to improve the relations between Sudan and Egypt.

Unity To Confront New World Order Urged

LD2709163194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, first vice president of the Republic, has emphasized the necessity of working for the unity of the Islamic and Arab ranks to confront the so-called New World Order. His excellency said Sudan's stands toward all issues are based on principles from which it will not deviate. This is particularly so in the sphere of freedom of resolve and decision. He said this yesterday when he addressed a ceremony for honoring the medical mission returning from Sanaa after fulfilling its duties in brotherly Yemen.

Garang Said Kidnapping Children From Kenyan Camp

LD2308172994 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Kenya has admitted that John Garang's movement is kidnapping Sudanese children from the Kakuma refugee camp. The UNHCR administrator at the camp, Robert Cogenio said around 300 children disappear daily from the camps without the knowledge of the administration.

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In an interview published in the Kenyan newspaper DAILY NATION last Sunday [21 August], (Robert Cepanto) disclosed that renewed fighting between factions of the rebellion is forcing between 100 to 200 unaccompanied children and women to leave border areas and head for Kakuma Camp. He stressed that they have held several meetings with refugee representatives in order to draw up a list of the number of children in the camp, but have failed to convince them to do this.

A follow-up by AL INQADH AL WATANI newspaper shows that the leaders of the rebellion are refusing to conduct a census of the children, and that the Garang faction is holding talks with the UNHCR on behalf of the children, whom they consider as minors. [passage omitted]

Al-Turabi Viewed, Actions Noted

NC1008121794 *Beirut AL-SHIRA* in Arabic 29 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Chief Editor Hasan Sabra on the "This is Where We Start" page: "The Army, the West, and al-Turabi's Promise"]

[Text] We should have noticed Dr. Hasan al-Turabi long ago. He was behind Ja'far Numayri's farcical shift to Islamic shari'ah in Sudan. He was also behind giving him the title "imam" and behind the folkloric feast at which bottles of alcohol were smashed or thrown in the White Nile. When it was time to get rid of Numayri, al-Turabi was the first to turn against him to save his neck and his National Islamic Front. Why national and Islamic? Because it was a combination of Numayri, who represented the nationalist current in Sudan, and al-Turabi, who represented the Islamic current. It was these two representatives who arranged the deal to transport Falasha Jews to occupied Palestine.

The man's plan is clearer today after he pounced on the authority with the help of two props. The Sudanese Army and relations with the West, specifically the United States, or, if you are not convinced, through France. Reports tell us that the man visited Paris just a few days before the Sudanese authorities handed over the nationwide smuggler, Carlos, in the most foul political deal of recent times. Would Lieutenant General al-Bashir dare to conclude such a deal without prior arrangement with al-Turabi?

The most important thing in that connection is that al-Turabi is still searching France for a combination similar to that which rules Sudan, so that it might be copied in Algeria, that is, for the Army to rule under the Islamists' guidance. It has been circulated in Arab circles close to the situation in Sudan that the man is trying to persuade the French to ask these Francophile groups in the Algerian Army to ally with the moderate Islamic groups—he means particular wings in the National Salvation Front, led by Abbasi Madani—to rescue Algeria from its predicament.

Al-Turabi sponsors a similar call to repeat the Sudanese experience in Yemen. It was al-Turabi who supported the Muslim Brotherhood's participation in the Yemeni Reform Grouping, led by House of Representatives Speaker Abdallah Husayn, in the recent war that concluded in the overthrow of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the south and north of the country.

Al-Turabi is striving to develop a combination of the Yemeni Army, led by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brothers, and the Muslim Brothers, led by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, to repeat the Sudanese experience and avoid another Algerian experience, especially after the Islamists helped to nip the YSP split in the bud.

We believe that al-Turabi is anxiously looking for a crack through which he can implement this scheme of his inside Egypt. The Egyptian security agencies have uncovered many infiltrations of Egyptian military institutions, both in the Army and police. All these infiltrations were made through strong ties with the Muslim Brothers in Egypt, the mother of all Islamic groups in the entire Arab homeland and of which al-Turabi is but a leading disciple.

The downturn in Egyptian-Sudanese relations is the result of this scheme, which transferred the battle to Egyptian territory, making it vulnerable to the Sudanese model. Sudan was always the Egyptian backyard and many of its political powers stemmed from a sincere belief in the unity of the Nile valley and the two countries that shared the same history, geography, and interests and bound brothers in religion, blood, and water.

The second prop on which al-Turabi wants to rely as he tours Western states is cooperation with the West, which can help him take control of the authority in the states that are witnessing growing Islamic activity and an open war against the regimes, particularly Algeria now and Egypt in the not so very distant future. He knows the West has direct interests in these two countries.

But al-Turabi does not ignore that America has two different viewpoints on the situation in Egypt and Algeria. While Washington sees no escape from the Islamists' participation in Algeria, with France opposed to this, it believes that the Egyptian authorities can contain these groups and pose no threat that necessitates their participating in the authority as in Algeria.

Al-Turabi tried with America before. But it seems it was not as ardent for an Islamic role in these two countries as he wanted. So he turned to West Europe and paid his recent visit to France to hand over Carlos. It was a

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prologue to a tour of West Europe, where the people have already read al-Turabi's prophecy that Islamic groups "will overpower Africa," as he told the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS.

The Army and the West are al-Turabi's weapons for Islamic rule in the Arab states. What remains for democracy, for justice, and for Islam then?

These are questions we pose, not only to al-Turabi, but to all the Islamic groups that are still fighting regimes through reliance on the West and on the army and are far away from applying shari'ah.

Is it authority alone or is it a program for social and political justice and a sound understanding of Islam?

Do these groups fight to substitute the face of Washington with that of Paris or the colonel's rank with that of major general or field marshal?

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Oman

More on Arrests of 'Underground Organization'

MB1108112094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Salid Tus: "A Ministry Under Secretary and Some Arabs Among Members of the Oman Organization"]

[Excerpts] Muscat—Informed sources in Muscat yesterday revealed more information about the underground organization members arrested in the Sultanate of Oman on the charge of "trying to foment sedition and undermine national unity." They said that the number of detainees exceeded 430 and that 100 of them were still under interrogation. It had previously been reported that only 200 were detained.

The sources said that the arrests began after extensive investigations lasting six weeks and that some of the detainees were surprised to see Omani security men storm their offices during office hours.

The sources added that the element of surprise used by the security officials in arresting the suspects compelled a large number of them to make full confessions about the organization, its members, aims, and sources of funds.

The same sources said that some individuals holding Arab citizenships were involved with that organization, but they did not specify the states concerned.

Other sources had said that the organization was structured in cooperation with some Arab security organs which confirmed the findings of the Omani security organs.

A diplomatic source in Oman said that the arrest campaign might have started at the end of May and continued until the middle of June, and that a large number of detainees were released in July after the investigations proved their innocence. He also said that the detainees included a number of military personnel including a colonel.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the 100 still in detention include a ministry under secretary. It had previously been reported that two ministry under secretaries were arrested on suspicion of links with the organization.

An informed Omani source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there are recorded confessions made by some of the suspects and that the Omani television will broadcast these confessions soon.

The source confirmed that the Omani authorities confiscated a large quantity of leaflets and documents as well as millions of dollars from the detainees. He hinted that the sources of these funds were foreign.

The source denied the report by a Western news agency claiming that the arrests were still continuing, and confirmed that the arrests campaign ended weeks ago. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that those released had been subjected to intensive and quick interrogations and investigation and that some of them were actually referred to criminal courts but were found innocent and promptly released. [passage omitted]

September Trial Set

MB1010083294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Salid Tus in Muscat and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo: "Trial of 70 Defendants in Oman Organization Case Next Month"]

[Text] Informed Omani sources in Muscat have announced that the trials of members of a secret organization uncovered in the Sultanate of Oman will begin in September. Also, according to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information from Cairo, a Kuwaiti citizen arrested in Egypt and released recently was the first thread that led to the discovery of the organization.

In Muscat, the sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the final list of defendants has 60 to 70 names headed by Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and a senior government official with the rank of ministry under secretary and including a number of Foreign Ministry officials, some police and army officers, an Omani journalist, and some students and teachers from the Sultan Qabus University.

The sources added that those released include a senior government official with the rank of ministry under secretary, other than the under secretary who remained in detention. He was arrested moments before leaving on vacation but, after investigation, he was found to be innocent and released after detention for over a month. The [other] government official "who is the first defendant in the organization" was arrested in his office after the blessed 'Id al-Adha holidays at the end of last May.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources have confirmed that the security situation is completely stable, particularly as the release of those found to be innocent was not followed by any measures against them.

According to available information, most of the arrested members of the organization come from the south (Salalah). The published reports, however, claiming that Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali arrive from Salalah in the south are not true. He comes from Sur in eastern Oman.

The sources confirmed that the main charges against the defendants include undermining the country's stability, threatening social security, spreading destructive ideas, trying to undermine national unity, and violating the islamic sharia.

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Al-Qaeda for Kuwaiti citizen. Cairo reports indicate Sa'd to was detained in Egypt then released after intervention by Egyptian and Kuwaiti officials. His statements and the information he gave helped uncover the organization as they especially confirmed the collaboration of businessmen of the Usmani security organs, leading to the arrest of those involved in the secret organization.

Saudi Arabia

Islamic Council Issues Decision on ICPD

LD1108033494 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] At the end of an extraordinary session held in the town of al-Ta'if [27 30] August under the chairmanship of His Eminence Shaykh 'Abdal 'Aziz Bin 'Abdallah Bin Baz, the general mufti of the Kingdom and chairman of its council, to look into the program of action of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], the Council of Senior Ulema has issued the following decision:

Decision No. 170, dated 30 August 1994

Praise be to God alone and prayer and peace be on the Messenger of God, his kith and companions and those who were guided by him.

But to proceed. The Council of Senior Ulema in its eighth extraordinary session held in the town of al-Ta'if [27 30] August looked into the program of action of the international conference on population and development attached to the memorandum of the UN Secretariat General, which will be held in Cairo [1 13] September, and studied what has been issued regarding the program of action from:

1. The Secretariat General of the Islamic World League.

2. The Secretariat General of the Islamic Conference Organization.

3. The Academy of Islamic Studies at Cairo under the chairmanship of His Eminence the Rector of al-Azhar; and

4. The International Islamic Center for Demographic Studies and Research at al-Azhar University.

The Council also looked into the study submitted to the Council by the permanent committee for theological research and fatwa in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Following study and exchanges of views, the following resolution was issued by the Council:

1. This program of action appears to adopt the population problem, the cause of which, according to the views of those who have prepared the program of action, is the increase in population because of the increase in births against shortage of resources, a matter which will lead to the problem of general poverty.

2. A draft document as a program of action was submitted to this conference with the approval of the preparatory committee of the conference, which convened in New York [26 22] April 1994. The document has 16 chapters in 121 pages and is drafted in a way that is outspoken at times and contains comprehension and insinuation at other times, a matter that leads to uneasiness.

3. As a remedy, the document concentrated on the call for two issues: first, for freedom and equality between man and woman and a complete end to any differences between them, even the differences ordained by the religious prescriptions and required by nature and made inevitable by the nature and make-up of woman. The document devoted an entire chapter—4 Chapter Four—to this, entitled "Equality Between the Two Sexes and Matters to Women." In other places in the document, as in Chapter Two: Principles two and seven; Chapter Three: Principles 10 and 90; Chapter 11, the items A, B, M [not further elucidated]; and Chapter 15, principle nine.

Second, for the opening of sexual relationships which are banned by religion. In this connection that a summit adopted the following:

A. Allowing sexual freedom and the other types of cohabitation apart from marriage, and propagating measures relating to this—4 Chapter 2/7, Chapter 5/5, Chapter 6/11, Chapter 6/15, Chapter 7/1, and Chapter 7/2. [numbers as received]

B. Discouraging early marriage, providing those who marry before reaching legal age, and making available alternatives to replace early marriage by way of providing education and work opportunities, as in Chapter 4, Principle 21, and Chapter 6, Principle 7, Article C, and Principle 11.

C. Making contraceptives available, reducing male fertility, and introducing birth control for family planning, allowing safe abortion and establishing special hospitals for abortions, urging the government to do so. Abortion costs are to be very little as in Chapter 3/13, Chapter 4/C/27, Chapter 7/31, Chapter 7/37, Chapter 11/8, Chapter 12/14, and Chapter 15/16.

D. Opposing restrictions on sexual education and developing it because it is one of the greatest factors in eliminating differences between the two sexes, discouraging early marriage, activating sexual contact as in Chapter 6/Goal C, Chapter 11 Measure/8.

E. Concentrating on introducing sex education at an early age, "the age of childhood and adolescence, as in Chapter 4/29, Chapter 6/78, Chapter 6/15, and Chapter 7/5 and Chapter7/6.

F. Using the media to achieve these goals as in Chapter 11/16.

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4. As a result of this call for licentiousness and their prior knowledge about the consequences of sexual contact, the program of action concentrated on health and sexual activities and means of treating pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, especially AIDS.

5. Neglects religious teachings, humanitarian values, and ethical considerations, and does not to attach any weight to them.

6. Declares anarchy and [word indistinct] to God and to his Messenger, God's prayers and peace may be upon him, and to His religion and law, and Odresses Islam [words indistinct] on the people and denies the custodianship of fathers for their sons and men as the protectors and maintainers of women, and cancels what the Islamic shari'ah entails in terms of custodianship, constituent factors, general rules, and prohibitions in the face of obscenity, fornication, ethical disarray, and religious degeneration.

Through the availability of such information documented by the texts and contents of the document, it leads to the following forbidden actions and ill effects.

1. The spread of anarchy, and the sterilization of man-kind and transformation into hordes of animals lacking identity, virtues, ethics, [word indistinct], and purity which are stressed by the teachings of the religion.

2. [Word indistinct] the sanctions of the Islamic law [word indistinct], these are the sanctions of religion, [word indistinct], honor, and birth. Anarchy is [The liberalization] of the sanctity of religion, and abortion as mentioned in the text of the document is [word indistinct] of the sanctity of birth and the killing of innocents, and sexual relationships outside legal marriage are [word indistinct] of the sanctity of honor and birth.

3. All of that is a defiance of the feelings of Muslims and a confiscation of their Islamic values and principles.

4. All of that is also a ferocious assault on and a violent confrontation of Islamic society in order to transform its character, points of honor, and [word indistinct] into what exists in the societies that suffer from the diseases of sexual abnormality and carnal fetishism. Therefore, the Council of Senior Ulema in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has unanimously decided the following:

First, the anarchical principles, measures, and aims which this document propagated are against Islam and against all of the laws which the messengers—may God's prayers and peace be upon them—brought, and to the sound custom and ethics, and are [words indistinct].

Second, Muslims are not legally permitted to attend this conference, whose documents—the program of action—contains this. Muslims should boycott the conference and not to participate in it.

Third, Muslims—governments and peoples as well as individuals and groups—should stand shoulder to shoulder against any call for anarchism, ethical disarray, and the propagation of vices.

Fourth, anyone whom God Has entrusted with any custodianship over affairs concerning Muslims should ensure that he and his people are pious, and should rule among his people according to the pure Islamic law, and protect them by closing the doors of evil, corruption, and sedition, and should not be a cause for bringing that to them, and to uphold the law of God with regard to all his people's affairs. He should remind everyone of what God Has said: "God doth wish to make clear to you and to show you the ordinances of those before you, and turn to you, and God is all-knowing and all wise. And God doth wish to turn to you but the wish of those who follow their lusts is that ye should turn away (from the way)" and: "Do they then seek after the judgment of the Days of ignorance? But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgment than God?"

May God make all Muslims—governments and peoples—successful for His satisfaction and to reform their affairs, and grant them confidence in religion and protect them all against going astray as a result of seditions and [word indistinct] of the devil. He is capable of everything. May God pray and provide peace for His slave and messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, his kith and companions and followers till the Day of Judgment.

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Iran Reportedly Massing Troops on Borders

NC1108164494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Western diplomatic sources say that satellite pictures show that Iran is massing troops on Iraq's northern borders in a pattern that suggests a possible military intervention in northern Iraq.

According to the sources, Iran has established fixed military bases in Biran Birakhar, Sharadit, and Naghe that are close to the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq. Elements of the 88th Division of the regular Army are moving toward the Kurdish area. Another division has reinforced its positions along the borders.

Paper Praises Turkey's 'Sound' Decision on North

JN1108084494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0627 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA)—Al-THAWRAH has said that Iraq's territorial integrity is the key to regional peace and an unmistakable guarantee for the stability of its neighbors.

In an article today, the paper, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: Any wagering outside this framework must gravely harm those countries, including Turkey.

The paper discusses the reasons that prompted the Turkish Government to decide to support the authority of the Iraqi Government in northern Iraq and not to take part in any move which would harm Iraq's sovereignty in the autonomous region. The paper stresses that Turkey's peace, security, and future depend on the peace and security of its neighbors, notably Iraq.

The paper hopes that the prevailing Turkish political orientation will be in favor of maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity rather than taking advantage of the vacuum resulting from the absence of the legitimate Iraqi authority in northern Iraq.

Concluding, the paper says: The Turkish decision to support the authority of the Iraqi Government in the autonomous region complements another Turkish decision to monitor the Western delegations using Turkish territory as a passageway to visit the region controlled by the agent and treasonous cliques. Beside the Turkish orientation to revive direct economic and trade relations with Iraq, the latest Turkish decision provides adequate groundwork for the political and cultural relations that should prevail between Iraq and its neighbors.

Joint Committee on Cooperation To Meet in Moscow

JN1108144094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (INA)—The work of the Russian-Iraqi Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Technical, and Scientific Cooperation is scheduled to begin in the Russian capital, Moscow, next Monday [5 September].

The five-day meeting will discuss cooperation between Iraq and Russia in the areas of economics, trade, oil, and energy, as well as ways of promoting accord in light of the two countries' desire to resume relations for the benefit of both nations and countries.

Kurdish Radio Reports 2 'Agents' Killed

NC1108183194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A reliable source in Kurdish has said that at 2320 on 27 August, unidentified gunmen opened machine-gun fire at an Iraqi agent in the Rashad Awa district of the (al-Sharyah) area, killing him instantly. It is worth noting that this agent was a commander of an Iraqi Army company. The source stressed that another agent named Mohammad was killed in the same incident.

Talabani Meets Committees on Normalization

NC1108174094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] received at his headquarters in Irbil yesterday evening the two parliamentary committees charged with normalizing the situation on the Qal'at Dizah and Rawandiz axes. At the outset of the meeting, Brother Talabani thanked the members of both committees for their efforts. The committees submitted a report on their tasks. In their report the two committees demanded implementation of the following:

Disengaging the military forces, returning party headquarters to their previous locations, restoring security and stability to all areas, removing all illegal checkpoints, and helping the inhabitants of the Pishdar area.

Brother Talabani stressed that there is a need to seriously address the problems of the Pishdar area and that the committees should act, as the parliament empowered them, to define violators of decisions. He called on the committee members to address the problems of the (Marawdali) clan, which are part of the problems of the Pishdar area. He stressed the need to pinpoint violators.

Civil Defense Teams Defuse 36 Bombs in al-Najaf

JN1108113094 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 11 (INA)—The Civil Defence teams in al-Najaf province, to the south of Baghdad, have defused 36 bombs dropped by the U.S.-led coalition warplanes on villages, farms and residential quarters in the province.

Director of the teams told INA that efforts being exerted to search for the unexploded bombs for defusing them.

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Musa Visit Continues; Proliferation Discussed

Proliferation 'Dialogue' Cited

TA1108124594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p 4Z

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa yesterday demanded that Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], and place its nuclear facilities under international inspection.

A work session was held yesterday between the Egyptian foreign minister and his entourage, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Israeli Foreign Ministry officials. At the meeting, Musa said that comprehensive peace in the region would be unattainable if Israel remained adamant in its refusal to place its nuclear installations under international supervision. Musa stressed that Israel's refusal was "an obstacle on the path toward achieving comprehensive peace in the region." Musa said that Israel was stubbornly avoiding any discussion of its nuclear weapons capability and complained that wherever Egypt raised the issue, Israel changed the subject. He stressed that discussion of the nuclear weapons issue constituted an integral part of the peace process.

Peres said that Israel shared the desire to clear the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction. However, Peres added that "it would be a mistake to discuss disarmament now before a comprehensive peace accord has been achieved in the region." Peres stressed that "before launching discussions on this subject, there should be confidence-building measures between Israel and its neighbors, and the peace agreements should be tested. Afterwards, there should be a reduction in conventional weapons. Only after comprehensive peace has been achieved, with all hostile states including Iran and Iraq, and this peace has proved viable over a period of time, will the time be ripe for the final stage of eliminating the whole region of weapons of mass destruction."

Foreign Ministry officials stressed that there were substantial differences between the Egyptian and Israeli positions on this matter. For example, Israel insists that any plan for freeing the region of nuclear weapons must include Iran, Iraq, and Libya, as well as perhaps the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union and Pakistan. Egypt wants to focus the debate on those countries which border Israel.

In addition, Israel, as opposed to Egypt, demands that any demilitarization include all nonconventional weapons: nuclear, biological, chemical, strategic etc.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday that Egypt raised the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons capability at almost every opportunity, and at every international forum, including the multilateral committee on arms control. Egypt is exerting international pressure hoping to compel Israel to sign the NPT.

Although Israel has so far rejected Egypt's demand, at yesterday's working session with Musa and his entourage, Foreign Minister Peres said that Israel would be prepared to conduct a dialogue with Egypt on this matter. Through this dialogue, Israel would explain its position in detail and Jerusalem's difficulties in complying with Egypt's demand at the present time would be clarified. At the meeting, it was decided that a special Egyptian delegation would arrive in Israel next month in order to discuss the issue with Foreign and Defense Ministry officials.

In order to demonstrate Egypt's goodwill on this matter, Musa announced at the meeting that Egypt would repeal its 1981 veto against any allocation of International Atomic Agency funds to Israel due to the latter's refusal to sign the NPT. These funds total approximately $100,000 a year. The Foreign Ministry welcomed the Egyptian decision.

Eytan Bentsur, assistant deputy director of the Foreign Ministry and Israel's senior representative on the multilateral talks arms control committee, yesterday said that Egypt and Israel have maintained a rather intensive dialogue on disarmament issues, especially since the establishment of a committee on the subject. Bentsur recounted that Nabil Fahmi, the chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the arms control talks, had even visited Israel approximately four months ago within the framework of this dialogue. Fahmi held meetings with Bentsur himself and Defense Ministry Director General David Ivri.

At yesterday's working meeting with Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem, Musa complained about Israel's decision to keep the regional early warning center in The Hague not Cairo. The center's location had been agreed upon in the arms control talks. The Foreign Ministry representatives clarified to Musa that Egypt had dithered in its reply regarding establishing the center on its territory. Since Holland had proposed itself and even offered to pay for the center's construction, Israel had agreed to station the center in The Hague. All countries participating in the arms control talks (almost all the Arab states excluding Syria, Iran, and Iraq) will report to the center about their military exercises, training accidents, disasters etc. This will prevent any misunderstandings that could be construed as preparations for a military offensive.

A major part of the working session between Musa, Peres, and their respective entourages was devoted to implementing the Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed by the Palestinians and Israel. Musa noted Arafat's grievances with regard to Israel, including complaints about the long queues at the Erez checkpoint, the reduced number of work permits Israel was issuing to the Palestinians, the economic distress, and its security ramifications.

The Egyptian foreign minister also delivered a request that Israel expedite the release of Palestinians still jailed

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in Israeli prisons, noting that this would improve the atmosphere and help strengthen 'Arafat's position in his struggle against the Palestinian opposition.

In his meeting with Musa, Peres raised the issue of Palestinian terrorist attacks which were launched from inside the autonomous areas, and asserted that 'Arafat was not doing enough to stop terrorism, thereby endangering the entire peace process. The Foreign Minister reiterated that Israel would not compromise on the security aspect, even if this slowed down the talks.

Musa said he understood Israel's position, but added: "Do not pressure 'Arafat too much. A lengthy process is preferable to a short process accompanied by pressure."

The meeting also dealt with the problem of financial aid to the autonomy. Peres and Musa expressed their hope that the donor countries would rapidly transfer the required aid to enable the autonomy to function. [passage omitted]

Musa Comments on Peace

TA0108135094 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Aug 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Sherl Gabay on 10 August; place not given]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said yesterday in a special interview with MA'ARIV that this might be the year for a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Musa said that the upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jerusalem and Damascus might bring about the longed-for breakthrough along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Musa added that in his talks in Israel he planned to advance the peace process along all the tracks. On the Palestinian track, Egypt is interested in the continuation of the negotiations leading to free elections to the Palestinian national authority in the territories.

"Before that," Musa said, "all power must be transferred to the Palestinians in the whole West Bank, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must redeploy. We hope that within two years the talks will enter the final stage of permanent arrangements, thereby ending the Palestinian problem.

"We are in constant touch on all the peace tracks," Musa said, "and support with all our hearts the achievements made along the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. We know how to give the Syrian and Lebanese talks a push."

How do you view Palestinian terrorists operating against Israel from the self-rule areas?

"Egypt has always opposed violence. Acts of violence are perpetrated not only by the Palestinian side, and on both sides, we try to calm tempers by advancing the peace process."

Do you believe that Israel has nuclear weapons?

"Permit me not to give you a straight answer. We want to bring about a new Middle East, devoid of weapons of mass destruction. That calls for special measures by all countries in the region. Israel is a neighboring state and our friend, and we are interested in calming the entire region, so that the Middle East does not contain weapons of mass destruction."

When will Egypt "warm up" the peace with Israel?

"We will warm it up in this visit and also by pushing for the opening of economic and trade ties, in accordance with the interests of the Egyptian people."

What would you like to say to the people of Israel for Rosh Hashana?

"That they should support the current positive developments among the Arab states in the region. There are new developments taking place and as far as I know, the people of Israel support the process."

Israel Not To Sign Nuclear Treaty

TA0108125994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa unequivocally that Israel would not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, our political correspondent Shlomo Riz reports. That was one of the issues discussed between the two men this morning. The Egyptian foreign minister also raised the demand that Israel sign the accord in his meeting with President Weizman.

Mr. Rabin told the guest that Israel is prepared for any regional arms control arrangement, but since the main countries threatening the region, such as Iran, Iraq, and Libya, are not participating in the multilateral talks on arms control, it cannot be discussed at present. Mr. Rabin also believes that Egypt cannot speak for Iran and Iraq and noted that Syria is not a signatory to the treaty either.

Musa on Imposed Jerusalem Solution

TA0108122494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said his government will not support imposing a solution on Jerusalem. Our correspondent Meir Amor reports that Musa made the remarks in response to a question at Orient House in East Jerusalem where he conferred with Faysal al-Husayni, members of the Palestinian Authority, and Palestinian leaders in the territories. On the other hand, Hasan Tahbub, head of the Higher Islamic Council, said that Jerusalem has always been an Arab capital and the Arab nations will not give it up. If the issue is not resolved there cannot be peace in the Middle East and the Palestinian problem cannot be

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resolved. In addition to Jerusalem, the Egyptian foreign minister will discuss the Cave of the Patriarchs at Orient House.

Musa, Peres on Nonproliferation

[TA180900] [Text] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 17 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Egypt will not sign the Chemical Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty until all countries in the Middle East do so. This was stated by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at a news conference in Jerusalem to mark the completion of his first official visit to Israel. Jack Kalmanoff reports:

[Begin recording] [Kalmanoff] In two days of talks with Foreign Minister Peres and Prime Minister Rabin, 'Amr Musa has been urging Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It turns out, however, that Egypt itself has not signed the Chemical Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty, while Israel has. I asked 'Amr Musa if Egypt has any intentions of signing that treaty.

[Musa] As for your question whether we are going to sign or not, the answer is no, we are not going to sign that treaty until all of us sign all treaties in the field of disarmament.

[Kalmanoff] How is it possible to negotiate at all on a ban on weapons of mass destruction when Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Syria are not taking part in these negotiations?

[Musa] Well, the negotiations are open for all of them, and we are not going to conduct negotiations immediately, so preparatory work has to be done, otherwise we will be playing in the hands of those powers which boycotted the multilateral talks.

[Kalmanoff] In other words, Egypt is not really preparing any more than what is already happening at the multilateral talks.

Foreign Minister Peres was also asked why Israel is not prepared to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty:

[Peres] Well, we are for it once we shall have peace. You know, policies are more dangerous than weapons. The United States, for example, has a very large arsenal, but it has a policy of peace. As long as there are countries who wouldn't depart from the policies of belligerency what is the sense to talk about arms? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Reactions to Rhetts, Musa Visits Criticized

[TA160800] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jun 94 p 8A

[Commentary by Tom Segev: "Visitors and Insults"]

[Text] Dan Ben-Amotz and Nurit'a Ben-Yehuda's dictionary of spoken Hebrew refers to "a very humiliating and condescending vilification." The word alluded to is "erek." The dictionary gives an example: "I do not want to see that jerk here anymore." That is more or less what the Pakistani prime minister said this week, and that is approximately what the Israeli prime minister responded. By the way, he tried to become the world's new Miss Manners, but turned out to be a sergeant major. "The lady from Pakistan should learn some manners," he said. Benazir Bhutto studied at Oxford. Rabin got his good manners at the Kadouri Agricultural School. He did not come out of the affair looking like a knight in shining armor, but like an loudmouthed housekeeper who rents out a room in her apartment to a poor student and does not allow him to bring girls home.

Rabin was not really insulted when Bhutto tried to visit Yasir 'Arafat without first asking for permission from Israel. Rabin decided he was insulted. That is the difference between a real insult and a diplomatic one: one is spontaneous and the other reflects a policy. There are countries which include "national pride" among their vested interests. It still characterizes several banana republics and far-away principalities. Nobody has lead his country to war for that reason. Many mistake national pride for patriotism; it should not happen in a mature country.

In order to maintain the principle that Israel has the right to dictate 'Arafat's guest list, there was no need to treat the Pakistani ambassador as though he were a laborer from Gaza wanting work in Israel. He was made to wait nine hours at the Rafah border crossing and then sent packing. They could have sent him a fax saying: We heard that your prime minister wants to visit 'Arafat. We regret that she does not plan to include Israel in her itinerary. Anyway, we hereby consent to her visit to Gaza. We will do all we can to help with the border crossing arrangements of the prime minister and we wish her a pleasant stay.

Bhutto's visit would have strengthened, even if only slightly, 'Arafat's shaky position and thereby would have helped the peace process. 'Arafat needs any success he can get; many residents of the territories find it hard to see what they are getting from the peace accord. It has served Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], only Hamas gained from the Pakistani prime minister not being permitted to enter Gaza. 'Arafat was humiliated; that is bad for Israel.

Every Muslim who shakes 'Arafat's hand backs the agreement with Israel. Every person who supports the peace process, also extends his hand to Israel, even if only by inference. Bhutto represents 120 million Muslims. Israel has an interest in ties with Pakistan and also with Iraq, Libya, and Iran. God willing, Saddam Hussayn, al-Qadhdhafi, and some ayatollah from Tehran will want to visit Gaza.

The Foreign Ministry's decision to be humiliated when it learned about the Egyptian foreign minister's refusal to visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial was redundant. 'Amr Musa's behavior was stupid and haughty—a jerk. Therefore, we might have reason to be offended.

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but we have no interest in it. Relations with Egypt are more important. To tell the truth, there is no reason to be offended.

For years, Israel has been dragging government leaders off to Yad Vashem in a kind of tribal ritual meant each time to reaffirm the existence of the state. It has given rise to those who regard Yad Vashem only as a sort of Zionist temple: the Holocaust is seen by many as a chapter in Zionist propaganda, and Israel is basically responsible for that. Menahem Begin even used to exploit the Holocaust to justify the Likud government's policy, among other things by what he said to Anwar el-Sadat on his return from Yad Vashem.

Israel no longer needs "recognition" of its existence. We are already grown up. The Holocaust heritage has a central role in our collective identity, and like the state itself, it does not require reaffirmation by visitors from foreign states. Most of the countries of the world have adopted it as a cultural code which symbolizes unmitigated evil.

The Defense Ministry is currently planning a central memorial for the war dead. Its planners hope the site will be used for diplomatic ceremonies, similar to the tomb of the unknown soldier in many countries. We hope the plan will be implemented. The Holocaust, which was taken out of its historic context in order to serve a political myth will be returned to its rightful place and the visit to Yad Vashem will become what it should always have been: a right and an experience, but not a ceremonial burden.

Rabin Interviewed on Syria, Lebanon, PLO

[LD3008171994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Noam Mosh'al in Rabin's office in Jerusalem on 30 August; from the "Conference Call" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mosh'al] With your permission, Mr. Rabin, let us move to another issue: the Syrians and developments in southern Lebanon. Hizballah is in fact waging a war of attrition against us. A Golani brigade soldier was killed yesterday and is being buried this evening. Does Israel have an effective way of fighting Hizballah, of preventing the terrorist acts, the infiltrations, and the shellings?

[Rabin] The Lebanon story has lasted more than 25 years. At different times Lebanon was the center of anti-Israeli terror activity, when the PLO was located there. What more than what was done during the Lebanese war, including the occupation of Beirut ... [pauses] Did that solve the terror problem? PLO terror was replaced by Hizballah terror which is ten times worse than the terror we coped with up to the Lebanese war. When we were ...

[Mosh'al, interrupting] But what are you, as defense minister, doing about this?

[Rabin, continuing] When we were in Lebanon for three years, we paid a heavy price without achieving the goal of preventing continued terror from Lebanon. There is no solution to terror from Lebanon, except for steadfastness against Hizballah so long as a political solution has not been achieved. Without a political solution we will continue to guarantee peace for the Galilee and to maintain the security zone at a painful price. The war in Lebanon failed to eliminate terror from Lebanon. We will not repeat that mistake. We will follow the existing method while adapting to the means and types of war Hizballah is employing against us. If anybody tells you they have a panacea, we have seen it! We saw a large-scale war, a three-year stay in Lebanon, and potentially worse terror because it is not perpetrated by a foreign Palestinian body, but rather by the Lebanese, by Hizballah, with the political backing of the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, and with Iranian support as part of the muddy wave of radical Islam in the entire region. Ladies and Gentlemen ...

[Mosh'al, interrupting] Mr. Rabin, can Syria curb Hizballah's activity but is not doing so?

[Rabin] First, Syria can lead the Lebanese Government to disarm Hizballah, with Syrian backing. This may be an uneasy fight inside Lebanon, but I believe it is possible. Syria does not intend to do so, except as part of achieving peace with us.

[Mosh'al] Mr. Rabin, you have the equation which stipulates that the depth of withdrawal on the Golan will parallel the depth of peace. Namely, and correct me if I am wrong, if there is full peace, will there also be a full withdrawal from the Golan?

[Rabin] You began with an exact quote of my remarks. The depth of withdrawal on the Golan will be the same as the depth of peace. Let me add now. In this sphere I made a commitment to the electorate. I had spoken of a territorial compromise, of a withdrawal on the Golan, and have now added that if it so happens that the achievement of peace, according to a certain timetable and certain security arrangements which I and my government colleagues will support, entails a significant withdrawal which I do not want to estimate and which may be interpreted as going beyond what I said on the eve of the elections, then in such a case I feel I have no mandate and will therefore ask the people for their opinion through a national referendum.

[Mosh'al] The question that arises here is why not tell the people the truth now, that you have already decided about a withdrawal from the Golan and that all that is left are the details?

[Rabin] I think you are mistaken. I am not committed to a full withdrawal vis-a-vis Syria, nor do I intend to

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undertake this, and this is one of the reasons why the talks in Washington are not taking place.

[Mish'al] Will President al-Asad be prepared to sign a peace agreement with us without a full withdrawal?"

[Rabin] I did not say this. I made it clear, via the United States since we do not have direct negotiations, that there are four components to peace with Syria which are tantamount to a package deal or a table standing on four legs. The first leg is the depth of the withdrawal. The second: the duration of the withdrawal, how many years are involved. The third: the extent of the connection between the withdrawal stages, with the first one being limited, and the implementation of full normalization involving freedom of movement and embassies. The fourth: the security arrangements that will be established. It is impossible to discuss a single component, nor will I agree to a single component—the depth of withdrawal vis-a-vis the Syrians—as long as we do not receive a positive answer on the duration of the withdrawal, on the stages involved in the implementation of normalization, how many years before the completion of the withdrawal to the line which will be decided upon, and on the nature of the security arrangements involved.

[Mish'al] How do matters stand today?

[Rabin] Today there is a gap. The Syrians have wanted all along as a condition for the continued negotiations in the previous format, or an overt form, that we declare our readiness for a full withdrawal, in public or in writing. We refused to do so. We want to see the whole picture. Let me repeat: If a withdrawal is significant, if it may be interpreted as going beyond what the public understood on the eve of elections, then I believe that a peace treaty will not be signed without going to the people in a national referendum.

[Mish'al] Now that you mention the voters and your promises, what should we do about a declaration you made in August 1993 that we should not get off the Golan, not even for a peace treaty?

[Rabin] I did say that, and at the moment, I have not come to the conclusion that I should retract it. Therefore, I said that if there is a significant withdrawal, I have no mandate, and I should therefore turn to the people for their decision.

[Mish'al] In other words, this declaration is still valid now?

[Rabin] This declaration is valid. I will not mention others, like the late Moshe Dayan and Menahem Begin and what they declared before Camp David or the Yom Kippur War, but let me repeat, contrary to them—they did not turn to the people and did not hold a national referendum about their deviation from their previous promises—I do intend to do so.

[Mish'al] I would like to turn to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror now. Sir. The Palestinian Authority is not lifting a finger to capture Hamas members who have murdered Israelis, this past week either. Gaza has turned into a shelter for murderers. The question I would like to ask you: Why do you put up with this?"

[Rabin] First, Gaza was a murderers' nest before the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Let us not forget that the source of a large number of the murders during the intifadah in recent years, murders which were perpetrated in Gaza, Judaea and Samaria, and Israel, was Gaza. It is true that then we were able to take a counteraction, but that action too did not prevent the murders.

[Mish'al] Are we not able to operate now?

[Rabin] Excuse me, it is clear that we do not have the same freedom of action we enjoyed previously in Gaza, but I also think that today we pay a less painful price, because the IDF soldiers maintain a different presence in Gaza. They do not need to patrol Gaza, the centrally located refugee camps, the Rafah camps, Deir al-Balah, and so on and so forth, thus sparing the lives of IDF soldiers who had previously engaged in patrolling who,h did not contribute to the antiterror war.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, I must tell you that I notice you are sort of putting up with the situation. What do you do when the commander of the Palestinian police in Gaza says he can handle Hamas, but 'Arafat has not given him instructions.

[Rabin] Excuse me. Therefore, we are acting today to isolate Gaza, first and foremost. On the other hand, we are also acting to enable the Israeli economy—agriculture, construction, industry—to be aided by territories' laborers. I also want the economic situation in Gaza to get better. The worse the economic situation in Gaza, the stronger Hamas will become, since socioeconomic distress is a fertile ground for increasing the power of Hamas. I am happy to note that over the last 18 months none of the approximately 50,000 Palestinians who received permits to work in Israel from the Shin Bet and the Civil Administration has carried out a murderous terrorist attack in Israel. Those who did do so from Judaea and Samaria, and surely from Gaza, were Palestinians who came without permits, and indirectly and unintentionally, Israeli employers created possibilities for them to perpetrate murders, the last and surely the previous ones. Now, Hamas is a murderous terror organization which is opposed to the agreement and will continue to operate as long it is allowed to.

[Mish'al] But the PLO is not doing anything, sir.

[Rabin] Excuse me. Undoubtedly the Palestinian Authority is not doing what is necessary. It is not exerting enough effort. We are exerting a lot of effort in Judaea and Samaria, yet occasionally we fail to prevent attacks. Some of these grave attacks, such as those in Afula and Hadera, originated in Judaea and Samaria.

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which are under Israeli control. I charge the PLO with not trying hard enough. I cannot guarantee that even if it does exert great effort terrorism will be totally eradicated. There could always be a suicide attack. Our problem today with the Palestinians is similar to our situation with Hizballah in Lebanon: religious fanaticism. We have seen such a Jewish murderer: Goldstein, the Jewish Hamas. On their side the phenomenon is much graver, because we are not dealing with a lone terrorist. This problem, which is much harder to tackle, is confined only to Palestinian Hamas members. In all its history of terrorism against Israel, the PLO has never used a suicide attack, not even once. It is harder to deal with this type of terrorism.

[Mish'al] The PLO, however, is not doing anything, as you yourself are saying.

[Rabin] Excuse me, there were two or three cases in which the Palestinian police in Gaza foiled attacks. My complaint is that the PLO does not have an overall policy of dealing with the problem. At the present, however, we are not even demanding such an overall policy, but only that they deal with terrorism. Let me add that if we see, as the process continues, that they are failing to deal with terrorism, we will have to draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Mish'al, interrupting] Are you referring to halting the process?

[Rabin] I am not in the habit of making threats, and I will not do so now. I want to say that if Hamas terrorism continues and they fail to even invest efforts to deal with this extremist Islamic terrorism, I think we will have to draw conclusions, although I do not want to say what kind of conclusions.

[Mish'al] Am I allowed to query?

[Rabin] I do not want to elaborate on this.

[Mish'al] I want to turn to another, very painful issue, namely Ron Arad. There were recently press reports alleging that Hizballah is about to execute Mustafa al-Dirani's cousin, who is suspected by the organization as having led the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to al-Dirani's house. Do you think this report could hurt Ron Arad's chance for being released?

[Rabin] I do not know what report you are referring to.

[Mish'al] I am referring to the press reports that Hizballah detained al-Dirani's cousin on suspicion that he helped the IDF to reach his house.

[Rabin] I read this report, but I think it is totally baseless. I know how we reached al-Dirani and how we brought him to Israel. This story is totally baseless and is not directly related to the Ron Arad affair.

[Mish'al] Let me rephrase my question. Is it possible to deduce from al-Dirani's interrogation that Ron Arad is still alive?

[Rabin] We cannot draw any certain conclusions. We believe—I personally believe—there is a good chance that Ron Arad is alive. He was held by al-Dirani for a year and a half. Today we know this for sure.

[Mish'al] Do we know to whom al-Dirani transferred him?

[Rabin] We have no doubt—nor did we have any in the past—that he transferred him to an Iranian element, although I am not going to elaborate on this. We know when this happened, but since then we do not know anything certain about Ron Arad. I am operating under the assumption that Ron Arad is alive until proven beyond doubt otherwise. The problem is that when dealing with Hizballah, elements connected with Iran, or Iran itself, we have very limited influence. The Israeli Government, and myself as defense minister, have a responsibility to the MIA's and POW's, to Baumel, Katz, and Feldman, the al-Sultan Ya'qub MIA's. We are also committed to returning the bodies of Avbrekh and Fink, who have been recognized by the chief military rabbi as war casualties, and we want to bring them back for burial in Israel. I sincerely hope that our continuing efforts will bear fruit. We must remember that the al-Sultan Ya'qub soldiers were missing in 1982. Unfortunately when we had more than 300 Syrian soldiers we did not take advantage of this. We were cheated when three coffins were returned without being thoroughly examined, and then it so happened that it was not their bodies which were returned. Today we do not have the leverage of 290 Syrian soldiers as well as bodies of Syrian soldiers. We are currently dealing with this issue. I hope that from time to time we will come by some piece of information.

[Mish'al, interrupting] About Ron Arad?

[Rabin] No, about the three from al-Sultan Ya'qub, the other two, and Ron Arad. [passage omitted]

Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos

TA2908145194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 10

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Lao counterpart yesterday signed a bilateral technical cooperation agreement. The visiting minister asked for Israeli experts' help in the areas of agriculture and banking. Foreign Minister Peres accepted the request. This is the first official visit by a Lao official since Laos resumed relations with Israel on December 1993. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Convoy Uses Passage for 'First Time'

TA3108185194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 94 p 14

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

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[Excerpt] Although the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho has not yet been put into operation and there is still no decision on the matter due to the differences of opinion with the Palestinians, border policemen yesterday for the first time accompanied hundreds of Palestinians, 180 of them policemen, traveling through the safe passage.

The convoy traveled along Axis Four, the axis from Sederot. It went from Gaza to Jericho and was accompanied all the way by a border police force. The Palestinians are demanding that their policemen be armed throughout the journey.

The safe passage will serve Palestinians traveling between Gaza and Jericho, but since it has still not been decided when the passage will be operated, it has not yet been officially opened.

Several incidents were reported in the territories. In Ramallah, two people were wounded in rioting. Palestinians claim that the Palestinian security services kidnapped an Arab employed by the West Bank Civil Administration and took him to Jericho for interrogation. According to the sources, the worker is involved in handing out permits for work in Israel. They claim that masked men kidnapped the man, who lives in the village of Beitin in the Ramallah area. There is no Israeli confirmation of the report. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Significance of Early Empowerment

[LD2908130094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 8]

[Commentary by Tzvi Barel: "Is This the End of the Colonial Office?"]

[Text] The Civil Administration in the territories is gradually being divested of its assets. There will no longer be an Israeli staff officer responsible for education, welfare, and taxes. The legal and commercial issues were already settled in the Cairo agreement and transferred to the Palestinians, and the autonomy's budget will cease to be a clause in the Israeli state budget. Meanwhile, the timetable is progressing in accordance with Arafat's estimate that early empowerment would be implemented in August. This was an assessment to which few people subscribed. If this timetable is fully met, then elections, following an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, can be expected in October. Can one already declare that Israeli colonialism in the territories is over and that the return of the Israeli bureaucrats to their motherland signals the dawn of Palestinian autonomy?

Just as Israel's colonialism was not of the classic kind, Palestinian autonomy remains a mere facade for the time being. After all, what is Israel divesting itself of? The very spheres that had become such a burden that they were abandoned to all agents and purposes in recent years. Dayan was prepared to transfer all civil responsibilities, except for land and water, to the Palestinians back in 1974. At the time, however, they were unprepared to accept responsibility. The Palestinians feared that self-rule would be the end of the story and block the way to a Palestinian state. Today Arafat understands that he must successfully get through this stage if he seeks a permanent arrangement under conditions that are acceptable to him.

The early empowerment can be viewed within the framework of confidence-building measures between the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian populace. The Palestinians, out of the joy of the moment, can declare the next school year in the territories "Palestinian Year." They can also declare a "Palestinian Year" in the fields of health, welfare, tourism, and taxes. But what have these years been until now? The fact that these services were once headed by Israeli officials and will now be transferred to Palestinian control does not create an essential difference between the past and the future.

As far as Israel is concerned, this step is similar to the withdrawal from Gaza: ridding oneself of a burden in exchange for a symbolic payment. After all, the sum Israel is being asked to offer is not much more than what was invested in renovating the Cave of the Patriarchs, and the health and welfare services did nothing but drain Israel's share of the taxes collected in the territories.

During this interim stage, the Israeli Government is readopting the model established in 1967: a purely military government in charge of security and in control of the natural resources, land and water, without being responsible for the populace. This is an occupation under luxurious conditions for the occupying party. The question now is: To what extent does Israel believe that the Palestinians will be prepared to remain within the new framework for a lengthy period? The Palestinians are under the impression that the implementation of each additional stage of the Cairo agreement is another step toward an independent Palestinian state. Arafat, uncharacteristically, has not placed obstacles in the way of early empowerment because he already regards Jerusalem as the capital of his state. He increasingly speaks about a confederation with Jordan and is already prepared to discuss the permanent arrangement. Israel, for its part, cannot live under the illusion that by transferring the tourism offices to the Palestinian Authority it can lock up the Palestinian problem and throw away the key.

It is true that the Cairo and Oslo agreements do not posit the autonomy as the end of the line; however, when its lifespan was determined, no one knew that Jordan would join in the process at an almost indigestible rate. It is difficult to find one man who can quote verbatim all the agreements that have been reached or are about to be signed with Jordan. This may be the clearest sign of normalization, but this kind of normalization may leave Israel stuck with the real problem.

The agreements with Jordan should not pose a threat to the Palestinians, and not merely to keep things polite.

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[illegible] agreement that is signed now without taking the permanent arrangement into account may torpedo that agreement or create a situation that will make it very difficult for the Palestinians to function, whatever the eventually defined framework is like. If Jordan and Israel seek to either retain the Palestinian autonomy off their soil or, alternatively, have not ceased to fear it, then they must begin to formulate the permanent arrangement. Preplanning and prior thought may find a way whereby a Palestinian state, even if such an entity is ultimately established, would follow a moderate policy and be so dependent as to make it innocuous.

The festive transfer of authorities that is scheduled to be signed tomorrow at the Erez checkpoint formally releases Israel from responsibility, but in the absence of continuity and progress toward the next stage, Israel may find itself a permanent conqueror that has merely carried out some cosmetic changes.

'Terrorists' Fire at Israeli Car; No Casualties

TA1008071194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 10 Aug 94

[Text] Palestinian terrorists from the Gaza Strip ambushed an Israeli car last night. There were no casualties, and there was no damage. A resident of the settlement of Netzarim was driving on the Qarney Netzarim road when the terrorists opened fire but missed his vehicle. Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] vehicles, which were escorting the settler, shot back at the terrorists, who sped off into the autonomous enclave. The IDF has launched a complaint with the Palestinian police.

The Democratic Front and its military arm, the Red Star, left leaflets at the scene, claiming responsibility for the attack.

Hamas 'Terrorist' Sentenced to 3 Life Terms

TA1008171194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A military court in Ramallah has sentenced the terrorist murderer of Shin Bet agent Na'im Kishko to three consecutive life terms in prison. The terrorist, Ali Ahmad Amadi, 19 years old, was a resident of Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. He was also convicted of taking part in the murders of Beit Berag residents Elyakim Levine and Mo'ir Mendelowitch.

MK's Urge Holiday Opening of Cave of Patriarchs

TA1008142094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] MK Rafa'el Pinhas Member] Rafa'el Pinhas joined a number of right-wing members of the Interior Committee yesterday who asked that Hebron's Ma'arpela Cave [Cave of the Patriarchs], which the committee toured yesterday, be opened temporarily to a small number of Jews on the High Holy Days.

During the tour, Pinhas asked OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran for the cave to be opened on Rosh Hashana for a small group—whose names would be given to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] beforehand—so that the 27-year-old tradition of praying in the cave on the High Holy Days will not be broken.

Pinhas also recommended that the cave be opened to Moslems on one Friday this month as well. He said that Biran assured him that he will bring the issue up with the prime minister.

Scuffles broke out yesterday between IDF soldiers and journalists who tried to enter the cave along with members of the Interior Committee. Israel Television on Monday [29 August] night broadcast Reuter pictures taken from inside the cave, the first ones broadcast since immediately after the Hebron massacre in February. This lead to the television crews on the scene demanding to be let in to film as well. Biran was called to the scene and allowed the journalists to accompany the Interior Committee members to the entrance of the cave only, but no further.

Yehoshu'a Matza, the Likud head of the committee who forced Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin earlier this week to grant the committee permission to visit the cave, called the decision to bar journalists "absurd."

Although committee members who toured the cave agreed that all the security apparatus needed inside had not yet been installed, they disagreed as to whether this was politically motivated or the product of the complexity of the issue.

While Matza said that the prime minister is trying to delay opening the cave for as long as possible, Meretz's Beni Temkin and the Democratic Arab Party's Talab al-Sani said the delay is understandable considering the security problems in the area.

Meanwhile, ITIM yesterday quoted Nabil Sha'th as saying that the Palestinian Authority will lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council about "the illegal partition of the cave."

Sha'th said that Waqf representatives discovered that Israel has divided the area of the cave, with 55 percent earmarked for Jews and 45 percent for Moslems.

Although Chief Rabbis Yisra'el Mo'ir Lau and Elyakim Ha'etzni-Dunon recommended to Rabin on Monday that the cave be divided, the government has yet to make an official decision. The rabbis recommended that the largest of the three halls in the cave, the Yizhaq Hall, be given to the Moslems, and that the smaller Avraham and Ya'aqov halls be given to Jews. They also recommended that the courtyard linking the Avraham and Yizhaq

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halls be covered, which would make the total area given to the Jews larger than that given the Moslems.

Histadrut To Transfer Funds to Palestinian Unions

TA3008115194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Micha Yudelman]

[Text] The Histadrut will transfer NIS [new Israeli shekels] 3 million to the Palestinian trade unions as part of the reimbursement of tax deductions from Palestinian workers' wages.

This was announced by Histadrut Trade Union Section Chairman Amir Peretz after his meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat in Gaza yesterday.

Senior Labor Histadrut sources yesterday expressed astonishment at Peretz's decision to transfer such a large sum to the Palestinian unions, in view of the Histadrut's financial plight and its leaders' plans to fire more than 1,000 workers because they claim they cannot afford to pay the workers' wages.

The Palestinian trade union leaders, with whom Peretz continued the negotiations over cooperation between the Histadrut and the unions, called the meeting "a historic moment" and stated that the Histadrut's announcements regarding the cooperation with the unions in the administered areas created a positive atmosphere.

Peretz responded that the murder in Rumla of two construction workers over the weekend cast a cloud over this atmosphere, and told the union leaders that they share the responsibility for the murder. He said that if the union leaders want the Histadrut to persuade the government to allow more Palestinian workers to come work inside Israel, then "you must help us, so that we can say to the security forces that the only people who will come to the work places are those who want to work."

The union leaders denounced the murder in Rumla and said they condemn acts of murder and terrorism on either side.

They reiterated their demand that the Histadrut return to the Palestinian workers NIS 700 million in organization tax deducted from their wages over almost 30 years without giving anything in return.

Observers Report: Jews 'Heart of Hebron Problem'

TA3008152194 Tel Aviv HA ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 94 p 12

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] A secret report by the international force of observers that left Hebron recently determines that the Jewish settlers are "the heart of the Hebron problem" and the main reason behind the "inevitability of violence between the parties."

The report sums up three months of the observers' activity in the city. It was written by the commanders of the force that was made up of Italian, Norwegian, and Danish representatives.

The observers express doubt that the numbers the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] provided them with on the number of settlers in the city are correct. According to them, the army reported there are 415 settlers there, but they believe there are only some 20 to 30 families.

The report adds that the settlers are isolated, heavily guarded by the IDF, and "their movement in town constantly creates friction and riots."

Settlement Leader Calls For 'Civil Revolt Now'

TA3108194094 Tel Aviv HA ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 94 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpt] Elyakim Ha'etzni, who heads "The Movement To Foil the Autonomy Plan," calls for "an uprising" against the government now. In an article to be published in the next issue of the settlers' journal NEQUDA, under the headline "Civil Revolt Now," Ha'etzni calls for the opening of registration offices for a reserve force of some 150,000, who will come to the defense of the settlements on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip if a decision is made to evacuate them. "Each settlement will have a permanent reserve force of hundreds or even thousands of people. They will be operated by an internal call-up network, visit their settlement, study the approach roads to it, and become part of the preplanned defense plan." Ha'etzni reports that a call-up carried out over several days led to some 20,000 signatures, and he believes that "in an intensive drive we could get up to 200,000 signatures, of whom perhaps half will translate their promises into action. The large amount of organizational work involved must now be undertaken."

Ha'etzni proposes setting up joint patrols by settlers and their "brothers inside the Green Line" to protect state lands and bolster security. "The uprooting of settlements and converting their inhabitants into refugees, not due to war or as a result of it, is an absolute crime," Ha'etzni wrote. "I therefore say quite clearly: An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, even though he is a Jew, who drags us, our women, our children, and our grandchildren, from our homes in order to demolish them and turn us into refugees, is in our eyes carrying out a pogrom, and we will regard him as a violent hooligan, who behaves like a cossack.

"It is no secret that alongside the outstanding chapters in Israel's history there have also been dark and embarrassing chapters, in which Jews have beaten, tortured, handed over, and even killed their brothers, and leaders

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have led their flock to perish." Ha'etzni urges office workers, soldiers, and policemen who are called on to serve under the PLO flag, and the soldiers and policemen needed to protect the terrorist leaders or to accompany them, to refuse. "Soldiers and civilians are more and more becoming part of the terrorists' state, and we tell them: Do not cooperate in the building of the force of those who conspire to inherit you. Your behavior will be remembered and the day will come and you will be ashamed of your actions before your children. I am making sure that that day will come." He calls on judges, prosecutors, and guards not to participate in the process of releasing terrorists. Ha'etzni's list also includes surveillance of released murderers, publication of their photographs, demonstrations in front of PLO centers in Jerusalem, "registration and documentation of peace crimes, nonpayment of license fees for Israel Television, which has become an ad agency for Arafat and a public relations office for Rabin and his government." Ha'etzni writes: If we do not rise up against this government now—we will, God forbid, witness the fall of the Golan Heights, the release of all those who have murdered Jews, the flow of Arab refugees into Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip from the east, and simultaneously a sharp emigration of Jews to the West, the entry of the terrorist army into the towns and villages of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, the beginning of the fall of Jerusalem, and the expansion of Palestinian rule into Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, while the military government outpaces the law only on the Jewish settlements as though this is the population under occupation. Attempts will be made to uproot places like Neve Aliv (on the Golan Heights), Tall al-Rumaythah, Neztarim, and Kfar Darom. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves 1995 Budget

TA2908110894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Jane Rosenfeld]

[Text] The cabinet last night easily approved the 1995 budget, which differs little from this year's spending program except for the larger tax cuts and a slightly smaller deficit.

Only Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Economy and Planning Minister Shaul Shetrit voted against the proposal. Harish said he could not vote for the budget since it failed to take into account the anti-inflationary steps the government must still decide on next week.

"I cannot vote on a budget based on assumptions that depend on next week's deliberations," Harish said.

Shetrit said he opposed the budget because he did not believe it did enough for ordinary citizens.

"When the individual citizen looks at his situation he does not see any improvement in terms of his ability to pay his rent and similar expenses," Shetrit said.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat expressed his satisfaction with the cabinet decision, and took special note of the support the budget got from such traditional critics such as Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir and Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban.

He dismissed Shetrit's opposition, calling it "his regular job to vote against the budget."

Shohat said there was no real increases to the defense budget over 1994.

"The battle for the defense budget has been decided," he said.

He added, however, that Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had said there are still some serious problems that have to be dealt with, though Shohat did not specify what they were.

As in years past, the budget includes a series of structural reforms aimed at increasing the economy's competitiveness and its efficiency. Treasury budget director David Brodet pointed to the implementation of these reforms as the ticket to a developed economy.

He said that by the end of the year, the country will reach a per capita income of $14,000. Should the pace of reform continue, Brodet said, Israel's per capita income will reach $20,000 by the end of the century, matching the developed nations' living standard.

During the cabinet deliberations earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that the defense budget should not be cut. He also called on his colleagues to ensure that the budget does not harm agriculture, which has been essential to the country's development.

Referring to the kibbutzim's dire financial situation, Peres said that they were the victims of inflation. Peres complained that multinational corporations are still avoiding doing business in Israel, despite improved relations with Arab countries. He also proposed that the government provide free higher education.

Namir noted that although the employment picture has improved overall, there are still large pockets of unemployment in the North and South.

Health Minister Efrayim Sne complained that the budget did not provide enough money to maintain and rehabilitate hospitals located in the country's periphery, to provide health care to the Bedouin population, to open mother-and-child clinics in the Arab sector, and to absorb immigrant doctors.

Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar supported the proposed economic reforms and called for reducing the number of foreign workers allowed into the country.

Along with decisions on anti-inflationary steps, several other topics are still to be discussed next week. These

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included the easing of non-tariff barriers to trade such as simplifying product standards, and easing restrictions on food imports.

The cabinet will also discuss changes in the subsidies given to businesses in development zones A and B. Shohat will met with development town officials to get their support for his proposal to reduce subsidies for businesses in development areas, and instead to make direct investments in the towns' infrastructure.

[In a box on the same page of the THE JERUSALEM POST below the above article are details of the approved budget. The boxed article reads:

["—Total: NIS [new Israeli shekels] 128.7 billion.

["—Tax Reductions: NIS 2.07b., including 0.9 percent reduction in National Insurance Institute employment taxes evenly shared between employers and workers; implementation of the second half of the income tax reform; NIS 700 million in purchase and property tax cuts; company tax reduction from 38 percent of income to 37 percent.

["—Budget Cuts: NIS 791m., including a 2 percent reduction in the government work force and lower job advancement expenditures. Budgeting for 70,000 new immigrants instead of the original 80,000.

["—New Spending: NIS 2.393b., covering new budget priorities, financial assistance to the kibbutzim, the defense industry, Kupat Holim [Hostadrut sick fund] and the redeployment of troops in light of the autonomy agreement.

["—Deficit: 2.75 percent of Gross Domestic Product [GDP] instead of this year's 3 percent of GDP.

["—Economic Reforms: Removal of product standards as a barrier to trade; opening food imports; introduce competition in the electricity, international freight and gasoline sectors and to air travel to Elat; introduce fiscal accountability in local government."]

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Minister Outlines Water Dispute With Israel

JN1108191594 Amman PETRA in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Amman, 11 Aug (PETRA)—Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr. Saleh Irshaydat has said that Israel uses around 2 billion cubic meters of water each year, of which 0.7 percent comes from waters shared with neighboring Arab countries, in addition to 33 percent of the subterranean waters taken from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In statements to the Jordanian News Agency, Dr. Irshaydat said that the area in Israel that has been continuously irrigated from the 1950s until the 1990s has reached 2 million dunums. Moreover, Israel uses between 80 to 100 million cubic meters of waters from the al-Yarmuk River in the winter. This is in addition to the share of water it uses to irrigate the disputed territories within the al-Yarmuk triangle. From Jordan's point of view, these territories do not need more than 17 million cubic meters of water. Meanwhile, the Israeli side insists that these territories need more than 25 million cubic meters of water. The total area of the triangle is 28 thousand dunums, part of which is irrigated by the waters of Lake Tiberias.

He said that the 1967 war was aimed at controlling the sources of the Jordan River and diverting its waters to the Negev Desert. The war was also aimed at terminating the construction of the Khalid Ibn-al-Walid dam on the al-Yarmuk River. Moreover, Israel obstructed the building of the al-Wahdah dam because of its demands for a larger share of the water. It is to be recalled that Jordan would have taken care of all the expenses to construct this dam, which amounts to $220 million.

The minister said: Our water rights in the Jordan Valley basin are clear. Various international projects and plans to distribute the waters of this basin emerged, however, no agreement on a formula to share these waters has been reached thus far. The recent bilateral meetings between the Jordanian and Israeli sides resulted in a sub-agenda for the water, environment, and energy working group.

The minister noted that the water problem is not a local problem any longer, but has become a regional political problem posing a threat to stability in many parts of the world and the risk of wars that are no less serious than the wars the world has been witnessing over borders and oil wells.

Labor Minister Explains Position on ICPD

JN1108194594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Khalid al-Ghuzawi, minister of labor and head of the National Committee on Population, has announced the position that will be adopted by the Jordanian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] scheduled for 5-13 September in Cairo.

This came during a meeting sponsored by Her Highness Princess Basmah at the headquarters of the Queen 'Alia' Fund for Jordanian Voluntary Social Work this afternoon. This meeting was attended by members of the Jordanian delegation to the ICPD, a number of ministers, and representatives of the official and popular circles concerned with population and development. Details are in this report by our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari:

[Passage omitted] The Jordanian viewpoint is represented by the Jordanian paper approved by the Council of Ministers in a session held yesterday. This paper is a reference framework for the delegation participating in the conference throughout its activities. It is also a reference for the delegation's voting on all issues listed on the agenda, for the activities of the committees emanating from the conference, and for the meetings to be held on the sidelines of the conference, including a meeting with the Arab group designed to attain a unified Arab position on all issues to be discussed. This paper is also a reference for the national report on population which was submitted to the conference.

Dr. Khalid al-Ghuzawi, minister of labor and head of the Jordanian delegation to the ICPD, read out to the delegation members the paper approved by the Council of Ministers. The paper reads:

[Begin al-Ghuzawi recording] The reference paper for the Jordanian delegation participating in the ICPD scheduled for 5 September 1994 in Cairo is based on the following principles and pillars.

[1] Jordan is an indivisible part of its Arab and Islamic nation. Arabism is Jordan's national identity. Likewise, Islam is Jordan's creed, the substance of its civilization, and the source of the values guiding its conduct.

[2] With its leadership, democratic institutions, and people, Jordan always looks forward to participating in the formulation of a balanced new world order under which international relations will be based on equitable interests, respect for both peoples' will and right to independence, freedom, and security and also to contributing to progress and protecting human rights away from both hegemonies and the confiscation of political decisionmaking.

[3] Jordan believes in the importance of the role of a sound family in building a strong, cohesive, and sound community. A sound family is one that exists as part of a legitimate marriage. This marriage arranges duties and rights between married couples in an organized, accurate, and balanced manner.

[4] The right to give birth to an appropriate number of children is one of the family's basic rights, which is determined by the family's full freedom, desire, and choice without intervention by any official or unofficial party. Moreover, the family has the right to organize

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itself by following an appropriate family planning method. The state should provide knowledge, services, necessary means, and easy access for family planning.

In light of these principles and pillars, Jordan's view on the controversial issues to be discussed at the conference is summarized as follows:

[1] Jordan does not approve of abortion as a means of family planning. However, Jordan permits abortion only in one case, specifically, if it is necessary when a pregnant woman is threatened with death. This stems from the fact that the mother is the origin and that her life is more important than that of the fetus.

[2] Jordan acknowledges the principle of providing services regarding family planning, including ways to allow an appropriate time period between successive pregnancies as part of a legitimate family.

[3] Jordan encourages facilitating the mission of husbands to acquire knowledge about the means of family planning and provide these means such as educational programs, upbringing, and contacts among all Jordanian community's strata as part of the observed values, conduct, and beliefs.

[4] In dealing with males and females, Jordan is making efforts on equal footing with regard to feeding, education, health care, and social, economic, and political activity while adhering to the rulings of the Islamic shari'a with regard to inheritance. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, said the Jordanian position is a distinguished one which employs a sound scientific approach and specialized studies. This has yielded the paper which adheres to our creed, heritage, culture and civilization. This paper clarifies our civilized position while playing a humanitarian world role in an atmosphere dominated by confusion and uncertainty regarding many issues to be discussed at the conference, he added. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Sources Cited on Kuwait Visit

JN0109104894 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Jordan will reopen its embassy in Kuwait within the next few weeks to look after the interests of over 50,000 Jordanian citizens currently residing in Kuwait.

Sources at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry said that the Kuwaiti Government's speedy response to and approval of the Jordanian wish to revive Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations has encouraged the Jordanian Government to expedite the extension of bridges of confidence and contacts between the two countries. Therefore, it has dispatched diplomat Mashhur al-Zabn as the government's first representative to Kuwait to reopen and inspect the embassy and the ambassador's residence in preparation for sending a new ambassador to Kuwait. Sources said that Jordan has not severed its diplomatic relations with Kuwait. However, circumstances forced it to close the embassy for a period of time which is about to come to an end.

The sources added that an official Jordanian diplomatic mission comprising an ambassador and employees may soon head for Kuwait. The mission will look after the interests of Jordanians in Kuwait and will work to promote bilateral relations. The sources hoped trade and bilateral relations between Jordan and Kuwait would return to normal in terms of the volume of Jordanian agricultural and industrial exports to Kuwait.

The sources hoped that the labor market between the two countries will be opened so that Jordanian workers would be sent to Kuwait, especially in view of Kuwait's need for workers and the proven efficiency of Jordanian workers in all fields. The sources said contacts in this regard are underway.

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Buwayz on Sovereignty, Conditions for Talks

NC1108192794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A rally marking the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr was held in Bir Hasan [in Beirut] today. Attending the rally was Foreign Minister Fares Buwayz, who delivered a speech on behalf of President Elias al-Hirawi.

Buwayz said that sovereignty is not something that people beg for. It has to be obtained through security, stability, national cohesion, solid national institutions, and reconciliation. Calls to restructure Christian or Muslim leaderships and to unite Islamic or Christian ranks are detrimental to the country, he stated.

Sovereignty calls for true representation of the people and a free national decision-making process. Only such sovereignty will lead to peace and to an end of the occupation, the foreign minister said.

We will fight a battle of confrontation and steadfastness against the occupation, a battle for our homes and land, Buwayz declared.

Buwayz said that no peace can be confined to the borders of one country. Our commitment to the Arab cause is embedded in the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Confirming our attention to UN Security Council Resolution 425 will erode Lebanon's role, he stated.

We are on the thick of any regional issue because Lebanon has a word to say, a role to play, a position to take, and a decision to make. A Lebanon without a voice is a Lebanon without a future, Buwayz declared.

Commenting on the recent Israeli initiative, the foreign minister said that we are all for talks that are precise, frank, clear, and transparent, but not for celebration initiatives at the end of which we would be wondering what the celebration was about. This is a recording of a portion of Minister Buwayz's speech:

[Begin Buwayz recording] Let it be said that Israel is committed to full withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories, all the way to the international borders, for only when such a withdrawal is complete will the state be in a position to expand its authority through the exclusive use of its legitimate instruments. Once this is said, any committee will have a goal, namely, that of drawing up a timetable for the withdrawal and discussing the attendant security requirements. Short of this, we will be remain bogged down in maneuvers.

Anyone who remembers Taba knows that Israel is no charity organization. Anyone who heard Arafat venting his frustration understands how a vague, general, and ambiguous agreement can turn into a nightmare, how rights can be squandered, and how a cause can be lost.

Therefore, we are for precise, frank, clear, and transparent talks. We are not for initiatives that are celebrations but at the end of which we will find ourselves wondering what the celebration was about.

The memory of our martyrs makes us turn down anything short of a complete restoration of our rights. Private opportunists may be awed for elections but not for pursuing a goal or securing a right. [end recording]

Palestinian Factions Back Housing Plan

NC1108083294 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces has issued a statement in Damascus rejecting the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon and urging that displaced Palestinian families be released and helped to obtain their civil and social rights.

Hajj Hasan Hudrus, a member of Hizballah's Political Bureau, and Hajj Ahmad Qamar received a delegation from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. They reviewed new Lebanese and Palestinian developments.

Hizballah asserted its firm support for Palestinian civil and social rights in Lebanon to ensure a dignified life for the Palestinians and strengthen them against the dangers and challenges threatening the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

Explosive Charge Detonated as SLA Patrol Passes

NC1108205094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions detonated an explosive device as an agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] patrol was traveling along the Rimat-Saydun road at 1800 today, destroying a personnel carrier and killing or injuring its crew members.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack

NC1108073094 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement announcing that one of its groups detonated an explosive device under a Zionist patrol on the road between 'Aramta and al-Rayhan yesterday afternoon. The patrol sustained a direct hit and its members were either killed or wounded.

Earlier yesterday resistance fighters detonated a device under a Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] patrol on the Rimat-Saydun Road. The patrol members were either killed or wounded.

Personnel manning the hostile Saydun and al-Dawr positions bombarded nearby wadis and raked them with large-caliber machine guns. The bombardment extended as far as the outskirts of Kafr Milki. The enemy's positions in Bra'shit and Bayyat Yahun raked the township.

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Our correspondent in the south supplied us with a report on the security situation in the area last night. He reported that at 2100 two 120-mm shells fired from the enemies' and agents' positions in al-Tayyibah fell on Wadi al-Salluqi. Enemy helicopters overflew the area.

At 2230 the outskirts of Shaqra were bombarded with phosphoric shells, setting fire to crops. The source of gunfire was the Mamru 'Ayta al-Jabal position.

A Merkava tank stationed at the Taibuzah position bombarded Wadi al-Salluqi.

At 2300 Israeli warplanes flew over the south.

At 0130 today personnel manning the Sujud positions raked the Mlita hills with 12.7-mm machine guns.

PFLP Member Hurt in Roadside Bomb Blast in South

NC3108091994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] An explosive device exploded on the Yatar road this morning as a car carrying Samir Suwaydan, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and his brother 'Ali was passing. They were wounded and taken to Jabal 'Amil Hospital.

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Status of Joint Ventures Discussed With Libya

[Publication/date illegible] Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p 8

[Text] A joint meeting was held at the Finance Ministry yesterday by Syrian Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayni and Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Bayt al-Mal, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and Finance in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by several advisers and jurists from both countries.

During this meeting, the two sides studied the rules and regulations governing existing joint companies between the two fraternal countries with a view to reconciling them with the laws and regulations and correcting their course in order to achieve a balance from the administrative and financial points of view.

On the same level, the General Assembly of the Arab Union Establishment for Agricultural Development concluded its ordinary annual meetings, which were held at the Finance Ministry under the co-chairmanships of Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayni and Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Bayt al-Mal. The General Assembly discussed the prospects of developing the establishment and its projects in the two fraternal countries. The assembly approved the establishment's final accounts, general budget, and auditors' reports for the past two years.

'Explicit' Israeli Commitment to Withdrawal Urged

[Publication] [in Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Sep 94]

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Real Danger to Regional Peace," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Contrary to what Israel had expected, there has been growing regional and international conviction that what has happened so far is not peace and does not serve a genuine just, comprehensive peace, which is the goal of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Undoubtedly, those following up what has been taking place since the Oslo agreement and the subsequent meetings, talks, and expectations between the rulers of Israel and the representatives of the PLO party that has agreed with Israel must have become aware of the soundness of Syria's remark that every point in this agreement needs negotiations and agreements to define them and translate their generalized, vague words into reality. No matter how well this job is done, this cannot provide even a small contribution to the efforts to move the peace process toward the set objective.

The paper adds: Experience has proved the uselessness of separate and partial solutions and their contradiction with the objective of a comprehensive and just solution. It has also proved Israel's hostility to the resolutions of international legitimacy and its deliberate evasion of the Arab rights and withdrawal from the occupied territories. It is not difficult to realize that the essence of the Israeli Government's policy is to evade the peace process and its bases and to continue renouncing the UN resolutions stressing Arab rights and demanding the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops from all the territories it occupied during its 1967 aggression. Israel is responsible for all the tragedies, wars, and instability from which the region and the Middle East as a whole have been suffering since 1948. It is responsible for the failure to establish regional stability and security. It is has introduced terrorism, especially state terrorism, into the region. It has launched aggressive wars and implemented regional expansion plans. It has introduced an arms race, which has swallowed up billions of dollars, depending on the unlimited offshore support. It is stockpiling nuclear weapons that threaten peace. It is engaged in acts of killing, siege, annihilating an entire people and obliterating their identity.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The quest for peace must be primarily accompanied by the removal of weapons of mass destruction from the hands of those who waged Israeli aggressive wars. It also must be accompanied by withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and implementation of international resolutions.

In one of its comments, AL-THAWRAH says: If Yitzhaq Rabin really wants to make tangible progress in the peace process, Israel should first provide tangible evidence to convince the Arabs and the international community of the credibility of its peaceful intentions. Of course, the only way to do this is through a clear and explicit announcement that Israel accepts all the requirements of a just, comprehensive peace, especially returning the occupied territories and rights to the lawful owners and putting an end to all forms of injustice and aggression in the region.

AL-THAWRAH says that the desire for peace cannot be translated into propaganda statements crossing the minimum level of credibility, nor into sugar-coated words that are designed to mislead and deceive others and throw dust in their eyes. Rather, such a desire can be proved by Israel's full commitment to the implementation of UN resolutions, acceptance of the principle of full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and halting wagering on partial solutions.

AL-THAWRAH notes that a just, comprehensive peace basically depends on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories, headed by the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all Palestinian territories it occupied in 1967. This will open the way for a just, comprehensive peace and lead to regional security and stability.

Noting the seriousness of the Syrian stand on peace, the paper says: The peace process has proved that Syria seeks to achieve a just peace that can be recognized by everyone—a peace that is based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria has responded to every initiative aimed to achieve a just,

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comprehensive peace, to end the state of aggression with Israel and to return the occupied territories and usurped rights to their owners.

Concluding, the paper says Syria's honest response to all sincere efforts to end regional tension has proved the credibility of Syria's stands. Events have proved the honesty of Syria's good intentions. This has been appreciated by the entire world, especially the U.S. sponsor, which, through U.S. President Bill Clinton, praised Syria's stands and constructive efforts to make the region enjoy comprehensive stability.

Israel Said 'Still' Not Seeking To Achieve Peace

AB1608170994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Israeli officials have made many statements on the Golan recently. These statements focused on keeping the Golan, under security and strategic pretexts, and not withdrawing from it. When the Israeli deputy foreign minister said that his government is willing to withdraw from the Golan in return for peace with Syria, Israeli officials rushed to respond to the Israeli deputy foreign minister, who then went back to say that his statement meant a withdrawal within the Golan and not from the Golan.

The extensive series of Israeli statements on the Golan reveals that Israel still adheres to its manoeuvring and misleading stands and is still far from the bases of a just and comprehensive peace. In other words, Israel still does not want to achieve a lasting and successful peace in the region. It only wants to achieve its hostile and expansionist ambitions, devour and bargain over the Arab territories, and drag the Arabs into relinquishing their territories and giving up their national and pan-Arab rights. Moreover, this Israeli policy does not at all help political efforts, especially U.S. efforts, aimed at achieving substantial progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. In all cases, the Israeli stands do not contribute to pushing the situation in the region toward safety and stability. Indeed, these stands are further complicating the situation. Hence, because of its stands, policy, and behavior, Israel is responsible for the deterioration and complications in the situation.

The world is now aware of what Israel is out to achieve from its proposals and extravagance and continued refusal to meet the requirements of peace. Israel must be laboring under an illusion to think for a moment that by escalating the situation in the region and by complicating the peace process, it will be able to drag Syria into dealing with its proposals and bargains. The world has testified to the credibility and soundness of the Syrian stand toward the peace process ever since Syria accepted the U.S. initiative and participated positively in the Madrid peace conference. With this acceptance, Syria opened the road to a real, just, and comprehensive peace.

In Syria's view, this peace can only be achieved through a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, as well as through the comprehensiveness of the solution.

Hence, the concern over the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and Syria's insistence on a full Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon as well as the Golan. Lebanon said it has no interest whatsoever in separate deals, partial solutions, or Israeli proposals. Nor does it care about Israeli acts of blackmail aimed at disengaging the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Syria and Lebanon are in one trench and share one stand on the desired peace. They will not in any way accept anything less than a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa.

Peace now requires actual moves on the ground and not sweet talk and statements void of content. Our Israel's. These stands can accurately and objectively be defined as an announcement of Israel's willingness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and its full commitment to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and applying the land-for-peace principle.

The international community has recognized that peace, security, and stability are hardly advanced by continued occupation. Israel's peace-for-peace formula, intransigence, rejectionist posture, maneuvers, and deception.

A just and comprehensive peace based on a full Israeli withdrawal and the Arabs' restoration of their usurped rights is the only peace that can last and succeed and give the region stability. All Israel has to do is respond to the elements of this peace and deal in a positive and constructive spirit with its requirements, conditions, and bases until a just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the region.

Minister Hails 'Full Impartiality' of Elections

AB1108164094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p2

[Report on interview with Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah by Salwa al-Dayawani in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] The new People's Assembly results in Syria have confirmed the government's and people's interest in economic recovery to run parallel to the political and security stability in the country. Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah sees this as a manifestation of what the Corrective Movement has been working for since its inception in 1970, especially ensuring and safeguarding pluralism.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after the general elections and the announcement of the new assembly, the Syrian minister said that guarantees were available for all, ensuring that no incidents occurred. In those cases where there were legal violations, elections

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were repeated in the constituencies where the violations occurred and those responsible were referred to justice.

On that issue, the Syrian interior minister, who personally supervised the elections, said: Since the decree setting the election date was issued, we have been very anxious to ensure safe and sound elections and we provided the necessary guarantees to enable the voters to elect their representatives in complete freedom. And indeed, the election process, including the election campaign and the exercise of voting rights, proceeded in complete calm and full impartiality. The ministry only received a few complaints, which usually occur in any elections anywhere in the world. These complaints were referred to the provincial central committees and were remedied.

As regards the complaints in the Damascus City Governorate pertaining to three constituencies, they were about voters who cast votes despite the fact that they were under 18 years of age and others who used identity cards that did not belong to them.

As these actions were in violation of the election regulations, the election results in these three constituencies were declared null and void and the elections were held again in these constituencies. The committees of these constituencies, consisting of nine people, were referred to justice after detention in accordance with penal code 323, which stipulates that anyone who alters or tries to alter election results by cheating is punishable by imprisonment for a period ranging from two months to two years.

[Al-Usbuwa:] Numerous economic groups and Syrian businessmen and merchants have noticeably emerged. Does that mean anything?

[Harbah:] Political and economic pluralism has been Syria's firm policy since the Corrective Movement emerged in 1970. A realistic study of Syria's economic policy would show that there is a public sector, a joint sector, and a private sector. The private sector is entitled to operate and compete in Syria most candi and freely. The opportunity is available for everyone to help build the country.

Some economic laws were promulgated recently such as [Law No. 10] for 1991, in addition to other economic laws that allow investment of local, Arab, and foreign capital in Syria. [passage omitted]

[Al-Usbuwa:] When will the People's Assembly hold its first session?

[Harbah:] The Constitution states that the People's Assembly shall be summoned to meet by a presidential decree within 15 days of the announcement of the election results. [passage omitted]

Results of Assembly Elections Viewed

LN3108071494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 pp 1, 4

[By Ibrahim Hamidi in Damascus]

[Text] Personal efforts by men of letters and religion, as well as money paid by merchants and industrialists, have succeeded in helping their candidates win seats in the People's Assembly, while television screens, theaters, and newspapers failed to help journalists and artists win any of the 13 seats allocated for independents in the Damascus Constituency. Observers believe that this has actually decided the outcome of the Syrian elections in terms of the severe competition among the independent merchants, artists, industrialists, and journalists.

More than 15 actors, singers, and broadcasters were unable to win the confidence of the 3.6 million Syrian voters for the second time after they had won that confidence in previous elections. Voters preferred to back other candidates, who have tried, together with party deputies, to amend or endorse certain laws directly affecting citizens' lives, such as the money exchange companies law.

Vote counting in the 15 constituencies clearly showed that the merchants and industrialists were in the lead in all electoral constituencies with an industrial and trade background. Representatives of some constituencies of these two sectors were reelected and some investors replaced other deputies. The results proved the true limits of the alliances formed by the candidates of the "Dimashq al-Fayha'" list. As a result, five of the 13 candidates on that list won, but this does not mean the failure of those who decided to run for the elections individually.

Riyad Sayf, who owns an Adidas factory by a concession from the German company, won the largest number of votes. He won over 76,000 votes of the 250,000 votes in Damascus, where there were 1,000 ballot boxes. Dr Ihsan Sangar, an independent candidate, a businessman, a former deputy, and a Mercedes company agent, won 94,000 votes. Merchant Muhammad Ma'mun al-Homsi won 75,930 votes and merchants Hashim Anwar al-'Aqqad, Baha' al-Din Hazar, and Badi' Fallahah, as well as industrialists Basil Hammudi and 'Adnan Dakhakhni, also won. Writer Colette Khuri received only 40,630 votes. Of Sector A, which represents workers and peasants, civil pilot Nabil Dawud received 76,130, the highest percentage of votes, followed by clergyman Marwan Shavakhi, Dr Basil Dabdish, and Yusuf Nabilsi, who won 35,189 votes.

As for its list, the National Progressive Front in Damascus won the 16 seats designated for it, including 12 seats for the ruling Ba'th Party. In the preliminary results of vote counting, Dr Iliya Najmah won for the Ba'th Party with 234,500 votes while Mrs. Wisal Farhah, Khalid Rawdah's wife, came in last.

Well-informed sources told AL-HAYAH that the difference between the lowest and highest number of votes was about 2,500 votes, that is, at the rate of three ballots per ballot box. What is noteworthy, however, is that the names of 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, former People's Assembly speaker, and Shaykh Ja'ivad, former head of

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the People's Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, were scratched out at some ballot boxes. Meanwhile, citizens of conservative quarters did not vote for Mrs. Farhah, who represents the Communist Party at the People's Assembly.

The National Front, which is comprised of 16 political parties, was represented by 16 deputies. These are: 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Muhammad Minhah Baghdash, Faraj Thurayya, 'Abd-al-Razzaq Aqbiq, Amal Dakak, Dr. Najwa Qassab Hasan, as well as those who won from Sector B: Muhammad Shakir Isfayyid; 'Ali Turkmani; Wisal Farhah; Minhah Gurayyhah from Yusuf al-Faysal's wing in the Communist Party; Dr. Mahmud Qassumah from the Socialist Unionists Party led by Fayiz Isma'il; Muhammad 'Adnan al-Khatib from the Arab Socialist Union Party led by Safwan Qudsi; and Ra'ifahs Ibrahim Najmah, Muhammad Jalal-al-Din Idlibbi, and Muhammad Fathi al-Qanawati.

The results of elections for the sixth term reinforce the trend established in the fifth term in 1990 when clergymen, merchants, and investors entered the People's Assembly as independents. They obtained 85 seats out of 250 seats. This led to expanding economic pluralism and giving the private sector a bigger role in the economic process and to amending a number of laws.

Dr. Sangar told AL-HAYAH that he and his colleagues will work "within the framework of what we started in the previous term" in terms of amending the laws. These include the rent law, agriculture relations law, Law No. 24—which prohibits dealing with foreign currency and establishing a financial market—and the private education law, as well as amending the taxation laws.

Industrialist Riyad Sayf presented a program that complements Sangar's proposals. He told AL-HAYAH that during his work at the People's Assembly, he will work on "putting industry in the service of the human being" and fair distribution because the people would give all their energy if we made work a hobby and entrenched the pleasure of giving. However, he ruled out entering an alliance with anyone unless this "serves my program." He noted that he rejected any alliance with electoral lists and that he spent 2 million Syrian pounds on his election campaign ($1 U.S. dollar = 50 Syrian pounds).

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Marwan Shikhu called for understanding religion "as it really is" and preached that all religions are "tolerant." He noted that religion does not mean "terrorism, killing, or violence. It is guidance and enlightment." He said: "Anything other than this is not real Islam." He considered the winning of a number of candidates such as Ahmad al- Haroun from Aleppo Governorate Constituency, 'Abd-al-'Azz al-Shami, Ahmad Tu, and Ghassan Abu-Zaid from Dar'a Governorate Constituency as "something natural because we believe that religion organizes the lives of the people under just bases."

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Afghanistan

Talks With Dostam Ruled Out, UN Mediation Welcomed

SK0109114594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 1 Sep 94

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 1 (AFP)—Afghanistan would welcome United Nations-led peace efforts but rejects negotiations with the ex-communist Uzbek faction under rebel General Abdul Rashid Dostam, a presidential spokesman said Thursday.

"The Islamic State (of Afghanistan) welcomes the endeavours of the UN to solve Afghanistan's problems," said Abdul Aziz Morad.

"But there are some elements who resist on the participation of Dostam. By resisting they will undermine the peace process," Morad said.

Dostam launched a failed coup in January this year in an attempt to topple President Burhanuddin Rabbani. He has continued fighting for the past eight months in alliance with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami faction.

With the exception of Hezb and their Shi'ite Hezbe-Wahdat allies, Morad said most of the nine main mujahedin factions were opposed to the participation of Dostam in peace talks.

"We would like UN envoy Mahmoud Mestiri to give particular attention to this point. If the state enters into negotiations which include Dostam, then new military fronts will open," Morad said.

He was indirectly referring to proposed Afghan peace talks sponsored by the United Nations in Pakistan's capital Islamabad. The talks would include representatives from Dostam's northern political movement.

The presidential spokesman conceded the future of Dostam and his movement could be discussed at a gathering of national representatives at the proposed Loya Jirga, or National Assembly, to be held at the end of October.

However, he added that no representatives from Rabbani's government would sit at the negotiating table with Jumbish representatives.

"However the state is ready to sit with Hezbe-Eslami to solve the problems of Afghanistan," said Morad.

But if Hezb insisted on the participation of Jumbish in negotiations, the state would look upon that as an effort to undermine the peace process, he added.

The spokesman also said the United Nations would be better served by promoting peace talks inside Afghanistan than in neighbouring countries (word indistinct). "It is more likely that peace negotiations will be more fruitful if held inside the country," he said.

Morad said a 14-member delegation from the Loya Jirga convening commission was leaving for Pakistan on Thursday [1 September] to hold talks with UN officials, various Afghan groups, and mujahedin factions who do not maintain a permanent presence in Kabul.

Hekmatyar, Allies Vow To Shoot Down Ariana Planes

SK0109092594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Murtaza Malik]

[Text] Peshawar Aug 31: The Supreme Coordination Council for the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan, comprising Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his allies, has decided to shoot down any Afghan Ariana Airlines plane flying in the Afghan air space with effect from Sept 2.

The warning was contained in a press release issued by the Council here late this evening. It added that the said aircraft would also not be allowed to land. Significantly, the decision came at a time when according to the Director General of the Ariana, it was negotiating twice a week service between Kabul and Peshawar.

The Council believed that it had concrete evidence that the airliners was being used for military purposes, utilising military airports, transporting money, ammunition and military personnel from Moscow and New Delhi to Kabul. It had instructed all its land and air forces to fire at any such plane not abiding by this warning whether in the air or on the ground.

Presidential Palace Damaged in Rocket Attacks

LD3108194894 Tehran IRIB Television Service Network in Persian 1800 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Afghan capital, Kabul, was hit by dozens of rockets yesterday. According to an IRNA report, the presidential palace and the residential area around it were severely damaged and dozens of people were killed or wounded.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Hopeful of Ending Political Standoff

BK3108111594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 31 (AFP)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is hopeful of finding a solution to end a partial boycott of parliament, but opposition sources Wednesday [31 August] said they are standing by their demand for electoral reform.

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"There will be talks and contact with the opposition," Zia was quoted as telling lawmakers late Tuesday by the opposition daily SANGBAD.

Zia added that she hoped her ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) could persuade legislators from other parties to return to parliament.

The opening of parliament's autumn session on Tuesday was marked by protests as thousands of opposition activists took to the streets of Dhaka, but there were no incidents of violence as in previous rallies.

The opposition's six-month-old parliamentary boycott is aimed at forcing the government to approve a constitutional amendment providing for future elections under a non-partisan interim government.

They claim that last polls are unpossible under Zia's government, which has rejected the demand for an interim government at the next polls as unconstitutional.

Deputy House leader Shahiruddeen Chowdhury, however, said the BNP was open to talks on the issue and added he was waiting for an official response from the opposition.

Briefing newsmen late Tuesday at the parliament, opposition chief whip Muhammad Nasim reaffirmed that they would not join the session until the BNP introduced a bill in line with their demand for the constitutional amendment.

Political sources said once the bill was adopted, there was a fair chance the parliament would be able to complete its five-year term.

The 330-member house was elected in 1991 in Bangladesh's first free elections since independence in 1971. The BNP has an absolute majority and elections are not scheduled until early 1996.

New Army Chief of Staff Assumes Duties

BK1109140294 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Lieutenant General A.S.M. Nasim, the newly appointed chief of the Army Staff, assumed his responsibilities at the Army Division Office in Dhaka this morning. Earlier, Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Islam and Air Force Chief Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury placed the new badge of a lieutenant general on the newly appointed army chief's shoulder. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was also present on the occasion. The new army chief also met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the President's House in the capital today. During the meeting, President Biswas said that the new army chief has been entrusted with great responsibilities. The president advised the army chief to fulfill his responsibilities with sincerity and diligence.

Islamic Leader Opposes Cairo Conference Draft

BK1109140094 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, secretary general of the Rabita al-Alam al-Islami, World Muslim League, has called upon all countries, especially the Islamic countries, to thwart any attempt to adopt any document contrary to religious teachings and moral values at the Cairo conference. He was talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport prior to his departure for Pakistan. He expressed his strong objection to the draft of the International Conference on Population and Development, Dr. Ali said that Muslim countries should cooperate with each other against the adoption of the document at the Cairo conference, which is scheduled to begin on 5 September.

Iran

Rafsanjani Warns Against 'Enmity of Global Arrogance'

LD1108183994 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday said that the Islamic nature of Iranian Revolution was the reason behind the enmity of global arrogance with it.

Meeting with a group of Information Ministry officials, Rafsanjani said that a revolution which enjoys a strong popular backing and is linked to an immense ideological and human trend in the world has naturally staunch foes who are seeking an opportunity to destabilize it and to make it insecure.

Now that impediments to the country's development and self-sufficiency are lifted, the enemy has stepped up its propaganda campaign and plots, the president continued. "To tackle such a full scale offensive requires officials, people, law enforcement and security forces to be on alert," he added.

The president termed security forces as Scuds on the forefronts of the battle against domestic and foreign enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

Though being unknown, security forces are exerting utmost efforts to preserve the country's security and calm, President Rafsanjani said.

More on Rafsanjani Statement

LD1108191694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, making a statement at a meeting with state foreign intelligence [*emela ai-e khareji*] officials, referred to the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's politico-geographical status in maintaining the peace and security of the region and the world. He emphasized the role of the state intelligence forces—as the lookouts on the frontline of the onslaught of the domestic and foreign enemies of the Islamic revolution—in consolidating that status.

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The president considered Iran's Islamic nature to be the reason for the animosity of world arrogance toward it and said: Bearing in mind world developments along with the elimination of [Iran's] essential problems, the clearing of the path to development and self-sufficiency of the state, the enemies' plots and ploys are increasing in new forms and dimensions. Overcoming such an extensive onslaught redoubles the need for the vigilance and awareness of the officials, and each and everyone of the people, especially the state law enforcement and security forces. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Confers With Visiting Georgian Official

*LD301091017*94 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Sep 94*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Kervalishvili. At a meeting the Georgian deputy prime minister described the grounds for cooperation between Georgia and Iran as very positive, particularly following Mr. Shevardnadze's visit to our country. He said: The outcome of his trip will also add momentum to the trend of expanding future cooperation.

Mr. Kervalishvili said the project to export Iran's gas to Georgia, industrial cooperation, including the joint manufacture of motor cars, utilizing the invaluable experience of Iranian experts and engineers in Georgia, the transport and transit of goods, and communications were among the agreements reached between the chairmen of the two countries' joint committee.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed happiness with regard to the progress made in cooperation between Iran and Georgia. He welcomes the improvement of ties, especially within the framework of the two countries' joint economic committees. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran sees no obstacle in the way of deepening mutual relations.

Mohammad-Khan, Iran's minister of finance and economic affairs, also attended the meeting as the head of Iran's side of the joint economic committee.

At the meeting an invitation was once again conveyed from Georgia's President Shevardnadze to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Georgia. It was agreed that a visit will take place at a suitable opportunity.

Velayati Leaves for Disarmament Conference

*LD151091115*94 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Geneva Wednesday morning to participate in the disarmament conference.

Velayati is to outline Iran's views on the post-cold war changes in military security patterns, ban on nuclear tests, elimination of arms of mass destruction and regional arrangements.

Iran is the current head of the conference.

Special importance is attached to the outcome of the talks in the meeting since banning nuclear tests is high in the agenda of the conference following decades of pressure by the international community.

Larijani Gives Overview of Foreign Policy

NC2908180094 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 20 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majles deputy from Tehran and deputy chief of the Islamic Majles Foreign Policy Committee, by Shahrad Asmo-'Asheri, ABRAR parliamentary correspondent, in Tehran; date not given—first seven paragraphs are ABRAR introduction]

[Text] In an interview with ABRAR parliamentary correspondent Shahrad Asmo-'Asheri, Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani said: The trend of recent major political and economic incidents show signs of tension that will engulf the Middle East region in the future.

He elaborated on his views of the Middle East peace process, the reason for the West's recent pressure on Iran, the outlook of Iran's relations with Egypt and the United States, and Argentina's scandal mongering implying that the Islamic Republic of Iran was involved in the explosion in the Jewish center in that country.

Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy on the Middle East peace talks, he said: "Our opposition to the Arab countries' compromise with the Zionist regime is our right. We do not see the talks as just, and therefore there is no reason to revise our diplomacy in such circumstances.

On Iran's relations with Egypt, Larijani stated: The relations between the two countries demand that the two sides take the necessary steps toward the establishment of amicable political ties.

Commenting on the recent incident in Argentina, he said: The explosion at a Jewish center is an internal problem that the officials of that country should take steps to solve without transferring the crisis beyond the borders of their country.

Dr. Larijani, who has a doctorate in mathematics from Berkeley, California and is an electrical engineer, is currently the secretary of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC]. He is also in charge of the Research Center of the Islamic Majles and the Foreign Policy Committee. He was born in 1951.

The hour-long interview by ABRAR with Dr. Larijani was postponed on two occasions due to his emergency attendance at the SNSC session and other work commitments. The following interview was conducted during the third meeting.

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[ABRAR] In the event of Syria joining the Middle East peace process, will Iran or Iraq be more important for the United States?

[Larijani] First one should see the objectives that are being pursued in this extensive political move. Israel's peace with Arab countries is on the lowest rung of these objectives. This is because for quite a while Israel has not seen a resistant Arab Army and has denigrated the opposing armies one after another. Therefore, peace with these countries—even though it may be possible and may result in major moves—cannot be the main objective for Israel.

In my view, there are two other objectives that have priority in this compromise. The first is to combat the phenomenon that Westerners call Islamic fundamentalism, which is in fact an Islamic revival on the international level. Israel has clearly realized that even though it can demean the Arab countries, a resistant social front is on the threshold of taking shape in the Islamic world and the intifadah is considered its corollary.

The other objective is the defeat of Israel into the Western [as published] world and Islam, which would also be a strong point for Israel as it would give it an advantage. This is important for the United States as well. This would enable it to rest in Islamic fundamentalism.

The first stage of the Middle East peace talks under U.S. pressure has resulted in Israel's entry into the Middle East region, but this does mean the attainment of important results. If we view the objectives of Israel's compromise with its neighboring Arab countries, Iran would not be of immense importance from this perspective. This is because our country does not play a major role in these affairs. However, if we see the subsequent motives—the containment of the Islamic movement or the entrance of Israel into the Islamic world—then Iran's true closet and its stance in the Islamic world will become clearer.

Geographical Changes in Region

[ABRAR] Will we witness geographical changes in the Middle East region in the wake of a peace between Syria and Israel?

[Larijani] Syria is part of these talks, and right now it is the center of diplomatic trips on this matter. Syria is not outside these talks so it does not need an entry. There will be no repercussions of such a peace that will result in any geographical changes in the region. Of course, it is being predicted that Israel will relinquish the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for the guarantee of security from that country.

The course of events in the region indicates that Syria's peace with Israel is not too farfetched, as it mainly hinges on the return of the Golan Heights.

Future of Middle East

[ABRAR] What is your assessment of the future of the Middle East?

[Larijani] The Middle East is facing major political and economic changes. In the latest statement by the industrial countries, much importance was given to the Middle East talks, the aim of which is to establish a new order in this region and the Mediterranean.

The West wants to keep the Middle East and Mediterranean region under its security umbrella. This would be tantamount to enhancing Israel's role, which could extend to the countries on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea as far as North Africa. This would mean that its new domain of interests would transcend the region and stretch over the Mediterranean, which the West has always considered the red line for political and security purposes.

The Islamic movement and its proliferation in the Middle East is another challenge that can pose problems in the future. The Islamic movement is seeking to change governments, and it is natural that the Western interests in the region will be adversely affected in the event of such changes.

Even though the oil income of the countries in the region is very high, this does not imply economic prosperity. Economic processes are an important lever for the West, but they are also precursors for the Islamic movement. This is because none of the prescriptions given by the West to ensure its own interests can result in any major improvement in the lives of the people of the region. Any development in the Middle East has intrinsic structural problems and these factors can collectively bring about changes in the region that would not necessarily result in crises. However, they would have the potential to evolve into a crisis and even culminate in Western intervention.

Issue of Iraq

[ABRAR] What is your analysis of Iraq's motivation toward peace with Israel?

[Larijani] Iraq's problems extend beyond its relations with Israel. The latter is seeking to forge relations with Iraq and thus to bring itself closer to the Persian Gulf countries. Iraq wishes to reduce the Western pressure on itself. The important issue is that closeness between Iraq and Israel cannot happen without changes in U.S. relations with Iraq.

Review of Foreign Policy

[ABRAR] In view of the trend of the Middle East peace talks, do you believe there will be any reappraisal of the country's diplomacy [preceding word in English]?

[Larijani] That section of our strategy is based on principles that there is no reason to change. However, we do not consider the Middle East talks just or successful. If we view the objectives of Israel's peace with its neighbors, it is possible that we will feel that Iran is the only one with such a stance. However, if we see the other

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objectives that should not require the support of other capitals of the world. Iran's policy is far more popular and has many proponents.

The pressure that the West is exerting on us does not stem from our stances on this or that issue, which can be reduced by certain superficial or expedient changes. We should act in such a manner that we should be able to fend off such pressures easily. The U.S. and Israeli hostility toward Iran has intensified, but not to the extent that the United States can control all the levers of pressure against Iran.

The Argentina Incident

[ABRAR] What is Argentina's objective in initiating the recent uproar against the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Larijani] The explosion of a bomb in that country is an internal matter and should be discussed and assessed against the backdrop of that country's political structure. Due to pressure from the United States and Israel, Argentina has been forced to transfer this crisis from within the country to beyond its borders. However, what is important is that this protracted propaganda against us cannot continue as it does not have any basis or foundation.

[ABRAR] What do you perceive as Argentina's next step?

[Larijani] This depends on that country's internal predicament. Argentina will have to come up with a quick and plausible answer due to the influence of the pressure groups. Accusing one or the other does not resolve problems. The establishment of relations between our two countries is of greater importance for Argentina. We purchase $200 million worth of goods from Argentina annually and our exports to Argentina are less. [as published]

The relations between the two countries can be maintained and broadened with reciprocal respect and support. Those who are deliberately exacerbating this issue are the true enemies of Argentina, as the latter stands to lose in this incident. We expect the country's officials to exercise their intelligence and farsightedness and not consider others. This is because the propaganda atmosphere that has been whipped up will subside one day and reality will endure. The Islamic Republic of Iran has chosen a strategy with complete trust and adherence to international norms and acts within this framework. We expect all other countries to do so accordingly.

Possibility of Severance of Relations

[ABRAR] Is there a possibility of a severance of relations between Iran and Argentina?

[Larijani] Yes, there is such a possibility. If the attitude of countries that have relations falls within an acceptable and sane form of conduct, the relations remain intact. If such a condition changes, the relations are also affected.

Relations With Egypt

[ABRAR] In view of the recent visit by Foreign Minister Dr Velayati to Cairo, how do you view the future prospects of Iranian-Egyptian relations?

[Larijani] The visit by the foreign minister was mainly within the framework of the issues of the Nonaligned Movement. However, it had positive repercussions in the establishment of relations between the two countries. Iranian-Egyptian relations are a deep rooted and important subject. The Egyptian echelons are also in favor of such relations. What affected our momentum in improving our relations were the thoughtless stances of some of the Egyptian officials toward our country and the Egyptian hierarchy's stance on the Islamic movement in the Islamic world.

At present, we view the establishment of relations with Egypt favorably. This does not mean that we will resign from our Islamic principles. I perceive the benefits of both the countries and governments in establishing cordial bilateral diplomatic relations. Therefore, I consider Dr Velayati's recent visit to Egypt successful.

Relations With United States

[ABRAR] Is there a possibility of the establishment of relations with the United States in the next Five-Year Plan?

[Larijani] Relations with the United States are different from relations with Egypt. The latter is an Islamic country in which there is a longstanding and deep rooted Islamic movement. However, the United States considers it its mission to be antagonistic toward Islam and is a flag-bearer of the campaign against Islam.

As to when our government will decide to display some flexibility or harshness toward that country, that depends on the decisions of our leaders. From a substantive point of view, the political signs evident in the United States show a blind hostility toward our country and this cannot be a conducive atmosphere for the establishment of bilateral relations.

Of course, on the international level we do not believe in practicing animosity and vindictiveness, and a great deal depends on the relations the other countries have with us.

Hashemi on China Visit: Iran To Buy Ships, Sell Oil

LD1110091194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Mr Hashemi, the first vice president, arrived in Tehran this evening after a visit to China. At the airport, the first vice president told our correspondent: In talks with the officials of the People's Republic of China, various regional issues were discussed. According to Mr

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Habibi, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reached agreement with the authorities of that country for the purchase of four ships from China, the construction of four cement factories in Iran, and the sale of 50,000 barrels of crude oil to China. Also, according to agreements reached, the Islamic Republic of Iran will sell 1,000 buses and mini-buses to China.

He added: The two countries have agreed on the construction of an oil refinery in China with a capacity of 100,000 barrels and the reconstruction of some of that country's oil-refineries through a three sided investment by Iran, China, and a third country. For the purpose of offering commercial goods, it has been decided that the two countries will set up a joint company and commercial exhibitions with the right of sale. [as heard]

Exploration and exploitation of oil reserves of the Central Asian states, construction of railways, and agricultural research were among the other issues discussed by Mr Habibi and the Chinese officials.

According to the first vice president, the need to establish peace and stability in the Asian region as well as cooperation for the realization of that aim were stressed by the two countries' officials.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1450 GMT on 31 August transmits a similar Tehran-datelined report as follows: "Iran and China are to cooperate in the field of oil exploration and exploitation in China and other south-east Asian countries, First Vice-President Hasan Habibi said here on Wednesday. Habibi, who was speaking at Tehran's Mehrabad international airport upon arrival from China, added that based on agreements reached in Beijing with Chinese officials Iran will sell 50,000 barrels of oil to China annually. He added that Iran will also invest in establishment of a refinery in China and renovation of Chinese refineries.

"Habibi paid a two-day visit to China during which he held separate meetings with President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and chairman of the National People's Congress Qiao Shi. He further told reporters that preliminary agreements were also reached on purchase of several ships from China, establishment of several cement factories in Iran and expansion of bilateral commercial cooperation.

"He continued that experts of the two countries are studying joint projects in the fields of research, agriculture and subway network. According to Habibi, policies of the two countries on regional and international issues, especially the necessity of maintaining security and tranquility in the region, are very close.

"He said that he extended invitations to the Chinese president and the speaker from their Iranian counterparts to visit Iran adding that they were accepted.

"Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh and Commerce Minister Yahya al-Eshaq accompanied Habibi in his visit to China."]

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1630 GMT on 31 August broadcasts a similar report on the outcome of Habibi's visit to China which includes the following: "During the visit agreement was reached with the Chinese officials on the purchase of four ships from China, construction of five cement factories in Iran, and the sale of 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day to that country."]

Official on Foreign Relations, Policy

NC2708135194 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Aug 94 pp 1, 2, 9

[Interview with Ala'eddin Boroujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania affairs by Rezbeh al-Hari in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [ABRAR] The current phase in the war in Afghanistan that began a few months ago continues. The two sides have not been able to reach an agreement for a political solution to this embroglio. In addition, mediation by some neighboring and regional countries as well as by international organizations such as the United Nations has not been successful. What is the reason?

[Boroujerdi] Undoubtedly, the Afghanistan issue has become one of the most complicated political issues in the region ever since the conquest of Kabul and the victory of the mojahedin two years ago. More countries have also become involved in it. As you are aware, the UN's failure in the first stages of the crisis in Afghanistan resulted in the replacement of the UN secretary general's emissary to Afghanistan, and the new emissary has also begun a new round of his activity. For the second time, Mestiri has come to the region and Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Hamid al-Qabid has also become involved. We are therefore in the throes of a complicated and difficult situation at present.

On the one hand, the military clashes have unfortunately not abated. On the other, new factional formations have emerged, which was something no one could have even imagined. For example, the Pashtuns and non-Pashtuns are on one side, and both of these nationalities are on the other side as well. Nationality issues have always had the last word in Afghanistan. This indicates that issues are far more complicated than before. In addition to these issues, political issues and the extraterritorial relations of these factions have played a role on the events in the country.

Unfortunately, the massive arsenals that were accumulated during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan are being used today in circumstances wherein there is no longer any occupation. The mojahedin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan are killing one another. This is in fact a civil conflict without the presence of foreign forces. From a military standpoint, the situation in northern Afghanistan and Kabul is extremely dangerous.

Regrettably, this conflict has become a protracted one. In my opinion, there is not much hope of a rapprochement

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from an internal point of view. As you have mentioned, the collective efforts that have taken place within Afghanistan and from abroad have not proven very fruitful in practice. Even Hamid al-Qabid had to interrupt his visit to Kabul and was forced to depart from the city due to the insecurity. Mestiri also announced during the second round of his efforts that he does not have any specific plan and wishes to gauge the views of the various groups and factions.

[ABRAR] Therefore, this means that the report on Mestiri's plan for the return of Najibullah is not true?

[Borujerdi] It appears that this report was baseless, as the necessary internal conditions did not exist and the joint efforts (at the time this report was disseminated) were such that the opinions of others were also incorporated and thus, the final plan was unacceptable.

[ABRAR] Foreign media, including the BBC, had disseminated a report at the time of intense clashes in Kabul heaping adulation on Najibullah and cursing and denouncing the regime. On the other hand, reports indicate that there is a propaganda atmosphere that favors Mohammad Zaher Shah [former Afghan king]. In your opinion, is there a possibility that these two could be propounded as alternatives [preceding word in English] to the current system in Afghanistan?

[Borujerdi] If the BBC's remarks can be considered a criterion, perhaps many such changes can be considered imaginable. However, this is related to the realities in Afghanistan. Despite the fact that the leaders of the ethnic groups have acted wrongly in this regard, that instead of rebuilding the country after the occupation they became embroiled in internecine strife, the people have not forgotten the bitter events of the occupation era.

Even though the people are not happy with the performance of the mujahedin, they would still prefer to come to a semblance of an agreement and an Islamic government should be set up in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan are adherents of Islam and do not want these people in power who do not strictly abide by these tenets. Therefore, the conditions for the return of individuals such as Zaher Khan—who was one of the communists of the past era—no power do not exist.

[ABRAR] Does that mean that this is not even a possibility? Since Mrs. Robin Raphael, the secretary general of South Asian affairs at the U.S. State Department, had wanted Mohammad Zaher Shah to participate in the quest for a political solution to Afghanistan (of course along with all the other warring groups) it does not appear that Western circles, especially the United States, would welcome his taking over power.

[Borujerdi] The United States wants a pro-Western government to come into power in Afghanistan. However, as I stated earlier, even if the criterion were what the United States wanted, it is just not possible in the real world. Afghanistan has certain distinctive traits and the people who have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of martyrs and struggled for so many years want an Islamic government.

[ABRAR] The two warring sides in the Afghanistan conflict were scheduled to participate in the session in Tehran. What happened in this regard?

[Borujerdi] We did not officially or specifically present this proposal. The fact that our relations with both the sides have been consistently friendly and neutral, they had expressed the wish that the Islamic Republic of Iran should play a more active role.

If we feel that at any particular juncture this request by the various factions is a new one and that it could be arranged in Tehran, we will certainly not hesitate. I do not think that the time is ripe for it yet.

[ABRAR] It appears that at present, the Islamic Republic of Iran is involved in mediation in Afghanistan along with Pakistan.

[Borujerdi] We are pursuing some specific lines. First, there is the humanitarian assistance which continues from the past, such as vaccination drives, and the establishment of a health network in various parts of Afghanistan. Second, through our ambassador in Afghanistan, we continue our dialogues with the warring factions.

We endeavor to bring the views of His Excellency President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Hekmatyar as well as of all others closer and to transform the Afghanistan issue from the military phase to the political phase. If this materializes, the work will become much easier. It appears that they have not made any decision which could seriously solve their problems through political means rather than with weapons.

This is, in my opinion, one of the most difficult tasks.

Third, the implementation of every plan without the prior consent of the various groups will be impossible. That is, if a formula is compiled outside Afghanistan, it cannot be effective or successful within the country. Past experiences have proved the truth of this statement. It is for this reason that we believe that these groups should adopt the main decision. This means that for an accord, the prerequisite would be that this should be an all-encompassing accord. As you see that if the sessions in Afghanistan are not successful it is because there is no accord which takes all parties into account.

Accordingly, those who are present in Afghanistan with their forces should come together and adopt a collective decision. Otherwise, all such efforts will be fruitless and futile.

[ABRAR] If the Afghanistan issue does not move from a military phase to a political one, is the dismemberment of Afghanistan a possibility?

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[Boroujerdi] This is not one of the dangers that threatens Afghanistan at the moment. Apart from the fact that as a neighboring country, we are vehemently opposed to endangering the territorial integrity of any country, we are also very sensitive to a danger of this kind. This would be to the detriment of the people of Afghanistan. We hope that this will not happen. If things go badly internally and especially if the peace efforts do not include all sides, this danger will be greater.

[ABRAR] Has there been discussion or consultation with the Central Asian countries such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, which are Afghanistan's neighbors and have national and ethnic interests in Afghanistan?

[Boroujerdi] We have contacts with all the three countries at the summit level. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has discussed and exchanged views with the heads of the three countries but there has been no definite plan proposed.

On principle, Iran and Pakistan are two countries that have been involved for many years in this issue and have also been subjected to its negative fallout.

It is natural that these two countries should try as hard as possible to solve the problems of Afghanistan in view of that country's common borders with them.

The Establishment of an Independent Government in Northern Iraq

[ABRAR] It appears that relations with Turkey underwent a change after the visit by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Tehran. This seems more significant as regards the joint efforts for the establishment of peace and stability in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and northern Iraq. My question pertains to northern Iraq. Mr Demirel said in Tehran: "We hear news of the establishment of an independent government in northern Iraq." Is the subject of his remark true?

[Boroujerdi] This is not a new story and dates back to the time when the multinational forces were present in northern Iraq. The direct and indirect efforts of these forces generated some developments in northern Iraq which indicate some dangerous signs of the materialization of an independent Kurdish government in northern Iraq. Since this would be tantamount to the dismemberment of Iraq, it is natural that we would oppose it, just as we oppose the same for Afghanistan.

From our vantage point, the political geography of the region should not change and the territorial integrity of our neighboring countries—of which Iraq is one—should be safeguarded. The Iraqi people should not pay the penalty of the errors of the Iraqi regime perpetrated by Saddam.

Therefore, while we are opposed to the partition of Iraq, we have carried out joint efforts with Turkey and Syria for the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity and we will continue to do so. A session of the foreign ministers of the three countries is to be held in Damascus for this purpose shortly.

[ABRAR] Has a date been set?

[Boroujerdi] Yes. It will probably be next week. Accordingly, the danger to which the Turkish president alluded is a predictable one. It is for this danger that the three countries (Iran, Turkey, and Syria) have convened quite a few sessions and have exchanged views. We believe that this territory belongs to the Iraqi people and should remain so.

Saddam's Speech

[ABRAR] It appears that the Iraqi regime has also realized this danger. Do you believe that Saddam's latest speech calling for improved relations between Iraq and the regional countries, especially its neighbors, was for this purpose? What is your perception of Saddam's remarks regarding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Boroujerdi] Iraq should show goodwill regardless. The fact that the Iraqi leader makes a speech with remarks with some positive aspects (he also said some unacceptable things) is not enough. We can only accept Iraq's goodwill when we see it in practice. The Iraqi regime's lack of goodwill is evident from the extensive presence of the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mosahedin-e Khalq Organization] and counter-revolutionaries.

[ABRAR] Also, not releasing Iranian POWs.

[Boroujerdi] Yes. This is true. These issues should be taken up with them.

[ABRAR] There is a question with regard to the Central Asian countries and the Caucasus. After gaining independence these areas took steps for expansion of cooperation and relations with the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] member countries and joined the ECO. They also forged cordial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and it is being said that President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov is coming to Iran to sign an accord for the transport of gas from the country for its transit through Iran. On the other hand, Russia has opposed these actions and has said that these countries should remain within the framework of the CIS. What is your perspective on this?

[Boroujerdi] We have never heard any such opinion within Russia on this.

[ABRAR] Russian Ambassador Tertyakov raised this issue officially during the course of the ECO session in Tehran.

[Boroujerdi] In any case, Russia is in circumstances where it does not have any definite political cohesion on the various international affairs, including on the Islamic

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Republic of Iran, and the Russian ambassador in Tehran is also part of the same government.

We do not sense that Russia has a negative stance toward the ECO. After all, we have frequent contacts with Russia and if it had such a position it would have been natural that for it to come up in the talks. We have never observed any negative viewpoint on this. Besides, the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus are interested in broadening relations with ECO. Therefore, we do not consider this stance that you mention, to be a serious issue. We imagine that there is no reason that Russia—which is a large country in this region—should be opposed to the cooperation of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sectarian Clashes

[ABRAR] What is your opinion of the recent sectarian clashes in Pakistan and the performance of the Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto?

[Boroumdi] The Pakistani government is continuing its efforts in this regard. The issue of sectarian clashes in Pakistan is a complicated one in view of the tribal composition of the country and the distinctive social circumstances. We have heard an official report from Pakistan indicating their interest in friendly coexistence between the Sunnis and the Shiites. This is conformes with Pakistan's traditional policies which have been the same for many decades.

In my opinion, the sectarian clashes are a new issue in Pakistan that have been created from outside. Where the Shiites and the Sunni brothers intend to live amicably a small group raises an issue regarding the Shiites committing blasphemy and this was not raised by the Sunnis. Our Sunni brothers have attended the Shiite mourning ceremonies for years. Thus the policy of a small group—which strives to foment tension—does not represent the policy of all the people of Pakistan. Of course we expect the government of Pakistan to pursue this matter more seriously on the basis of its national objectives.

[ABRAR] As regards the remarks of the leaders of the two countries of India and Pakistan on the independence anniversaries of the two countries, especially what Narasimha Rao said about Azad Kashmir which is under Pakistani control, that it should be annexed to India, what do you think? Iran tried to mediate between the two countries. What has been the outcome of this mediation effort?

[Boroumdi] In fact, Kashmir is the problem and a Gordian knot which remains from the colonial British presence on the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent. The British created this problem so that it could continue to loiter for many years in the subcontinent.

Today, such problems should not exist, but unfortunately this bitter reality stares us in the face. Kashmir is one of the serious and complicated issues of the region. We believe one of the best solutions would be direct negotiations between the two sides. You mentioned mediation efforts. It is true that we proposed that this issue be resolved through bilateral negotiations. We also declared our willingness to make efforts in this regard as we have cordial relations with the two countries. We have initiated these efforts but the situation is very difficult and complicated and not something that can be resolved in a year or two.

In this regard, our ambassador to India visited Kashmir and held discussions with some Indian officials. Our ambassador in Pakistan also had talks with the Pakistani officials. We had close contacts with both sides at the Geneva session. This is a very delicate issue with very distinctive problems.

Our perception is that we should not expect a quick and definite solution to the issue. However, the conditions of the Kashmiri people are a very important issue and we broached this subject with the Indian Government. We hope that the pressure on the Kashmiri people will be reduced. This issue will, in itself, pave the way for an accord between the two countries.

In my opinion the Indian Government has reached the same conclusion and lifting the siege on the Hazratbal mosque and permission to the people to enter it for worship is an example.

[ABRAR] The Islamic Republic of Iran has cordial relations with Japan. This is important, as Japan is a member of the Group of Seven industrial countries of the world and so far it has indicated that it desires friendly relations with Iran. In this regard, it has been subjected to much pressure from the United States to reduce its dealings with Iran. The United States even asked Japan not to give the second installment of the loan it was supposed to give Iran.

In any case, Japan and a few other European countries—who we did not expect to join the U.S. policies—signed an anti-Iranian statement at the G-7 session in Naples, Italy. What is your viewpoint on this and in the future, what will happen with our relations with these countries?

[Boroumdi] As regards Japan, we should state that this country is a strong country in east Asia. It is not a country that would be subservient to U.S. policies and its differences with the United States on economic issues confirms this statement. Tokyo has an independent viewpoint on internal as well as international issues.

At the G-7 session in Tokyo, Japan's opposition to the United States was quite evident and we also saw the interaction of countries such as Germany with Japan. This was repeated at the Naples session. Japan did not succumb to U.S. pressure and immediately after the Naples session, Japanese newspapers reported that Japan was getting ready to pay the second installment of the loan to Iran.

Of course, the artificial pressure exerted by the United States and the whipping up of an atmosphere are more

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false pressure used against Germany and Japan to prevent their close cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. We believe that the Japanese will use their intelligence and wisdom and not believe in these falsehoods and the anti-Iranian mood generated by the United States. Therefore, the Japanese have not changed their policy with regard to Venezuela and Argentina and we realize this full well. They are aware that this is a series of scenarios rigged up by the United States for pressure against Iran.

We are optimistic about the future of Tehran-Tokyo relations. Japan is our greatest purchaser of oil and is in charge of implementing the massive project of the Karun-4 dam.

[ARRAJAR] Has the date for the second loan installment been announced?

[Boroujerdi] I cannot tell you the exact date.

[ARRAJAR] Is it a specific amount?

[Boroujerdi] The total amount was $1.2 billion. However, with the fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate, I think it should be $1.5 billion, which will be paid in installments.

[ARRAJAR] In the interview that we had with you last year, you mentioned that Tehran is conferring with Tokyo on the issue of Iranians resident in Japan. What were the results of these talks?

[Boroujerdi] In view of the limited news that we hear and read about the Iranians resident in Japan, I think that the talks have been successful. It was agreed that Iranians should go to Japan with all the legal documents. Thus, when the Japanese Government issues legitimate visas to them, it will not have the right to expel them. We will address any violations we observe.

Therefore, the unpleasant situation that prevailed at Tokyo's airport has ended and Iranians enter Japan in a more respectable manner. Even though the presence of more than 20,000 Iranians in Japan today is not entirely in accordance with the regulations of the country, they are working. We expect that if today the rules and regulations in Japan do not permit Iranians to work—in view of the high-level of bilateral economic cooperation—they will try to accept a number of Iranians officially and legally into the country so that the Iranians resident there can obtain employment in accordance with the domestic needs of the Japanese.

[ARRAJAR] Recently the United States has exerted immense pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. What does the United States want from us, that it is exerting all this pressure?

[Boroujerdi] My personal deduction is that the United States does not want the Islamic Republic of Iran to exist. Naturally, this is not acceptable to anyone and this is the reason for the U.S. pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran. At present, Iran has emerged as a model for the Muslims of the world to emulate and has proved that in today's circumstances Islam has the ability to translate itself into sovereignty and this is a source of displeasure for the United States.

Radio Underscores 'Extensive' Ties With Pakistan

NC0109083094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0347 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Commentary by 'News Research and Commentary Group']

[Text] Our country's heavy industries minister, who has arrived in Islamabad in an effort to improve industrial and agricultural relations between Iran and Pakistan, has talked with Pakistani political and economic officials.

During the talks, the two sides agreed that three working committees be formed to follow up on the decisions made during sessions. In addition, new agreements in the fields of industry, mining, and agriculture are to be signed in Karachi today. When we say sessions we mean the meetings of the two countries' joint commissions, whose eighth session was held in mid-May in Tehran.

Economic cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad are on two levels. The first is on the bilateral level and the other on a more extensive level—that is, the Economic Cooperation Organization, or ECO. However, their cooperation within the framework of south-south relations cannot be ignored.

The things that have led to such extensive cooperation between Pakistan and Iran are their common religious, cultural, and historic ties. These same things have also resulted in the adoption of a common foreign policy by Tehran and Islamabad.

In parallel with the two countries' political relations, their economic ties have considerably increased. The volume of trade between the two countries in [19]93 [year beginning 21 March 1993] was $300 million equally. Of course, this is a small figure in view of the extensive nature of relations. This is why officials of the two countries are trying to raise this figure to $500 million.

Apart from the two countries' trade, during the visit by the heavy industries minister special attention has been focused on cooperation in the implementation of joint industrial and agricultural projects, which can grant new dynamism to the two countries, especially since Iran and Pakistan are considered developing countries and when they should focus attention on agriculture and industry as the infrastructure necessary for development.

Naturally, extensive cooperation between Islamabad and Tehran can work toward the strengthening of the ECO. The two countries are considered the founders of the ECO and the expansion of their relations will further activate the organization. This is important since the

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strengthening of the ECO can effectively help create an Islamic common market and end the Muslim countries' need for foreign powers.

But above all Iran and Pakistan both have important geographic situations. The two have extensive land with a total population of 190 million. Their extensive coasts grant them favorable conditions for international transport. All these help the two to play a key role in trade between ECO members and the outside world.

In any case, it seems that to use the existing potential of the two countries in the best possible way, the officials in Islamabad and Tehran should—while taking their cooperation seriously—also further accelerate the implementation of the protocols that have been signed between the two countries so that they can achieve more successes.

Paper Publishes Name of ICPD Delegation Leader

[Unattributed] Tehran SALAM in English 0800 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 1 (AFP)—A senior clergyman, Mohammad Ali Tasskhiri, is to head the Iranian delegation at the UN World Population Conference in Cairo next week, the TEHRAN TIMES announced Thursday.

A conservative Shiite Muslim figure close to spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Tasskhiri will head a nine-member delegation, including the deputy foreign and health ministers, the English-language daily said.

Tasskhiri is fluent in Arabic and has taken part in many regional conferences on various topics.

Iran has decided to participate in the conference, to open in Cairo on Monday, despite its opposition to certain resolutions in the draft action plan.

Health Minister Ali Reza Marandi said on Sunday that his country should take part to make its position known and put forward suggestions to alter parts of the plan.

Several radical newspapers and clergymen have have strongly criticized Tehran's decision to participate, saying it was a western plot to promote abortion, homosexuality and pre-marital sex in the Islamic world.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, a daily close to Islamic hardliners, on Thursday rejected the conference's "illegitimate targets" for controlling world population, saying they were "immoral and anti-religious."

Commentary Urges ICPD To Encourage Smaller Families

[Unattributed] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0645 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Excerpts] The UN-sponsored International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] will convene in Cairo on Monday at a time when there are basic differences among various countries on some of the methods proposed for population control. The ICPD's 113-page agenda was compiled long ago and representatives from around 160 countries will try to include their views in the final communique of the Cairo conference. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that countries will use different methods based on religious, moral, and traditional criteria concerning population control and family planning. The differences among countries on the agenda proposed for the Cairo conference stem from two points of view. The first is that if the Third World countries control population using methods proposed by America and based on free sexual relations among youths, they will face crises such as the disintegration of families and of cultural and ethical values in addition to the population crisis. Adopting these methods of population control is contrary to the principle of religious beliefs. More importantly, from the sociological point of view, such methods will result in a decline in human life through sexual corruption.

The other method that appears to be healthier and more ethical is that ICPD participants propose policies for family planning on the basis of the family and the strengthening of the family as the most important nucleus of social formations.

Encouraging people through education and other social programs to have smaller families will help considerably to control population. Figures show that if the policy of having smaller families is implemented, world population growth can be decreased by about 750 million.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Partition of Hebron Mosque

[LD1108204594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry condemned the hostile occupation of the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque. He described the action by the usurper Zionist regime in partitioning the al-Khalil mosque as inhumane and irreligious, and he called on international forums, especially the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization, to find urgent and decisive measures to end the hostile occupation of that worshipping place of Muslims.

It is worth mentioning that the Zionist regime partitioned the al-Khalil mosque—which was the scene of the massacre of dozens of Palestinian Muslims last [Iranian] year—into two sections by erecting iron walls.

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Improvement of Tax Collection Procedures Discussed

NC3109083494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Based on a circular from the president to all ministries, foundations, state companies, Islamic revolution institutions, and general governorates throughout the country, individuals must use a personal economic number in every transaction above 1 million rials. The objective behind the circular, which follows a Majles decision on this year's budget bill, is to pave the way for ensuring tax income envisaged in this year's budget law and making taxation more just.

Taxation in the economic field has always been one of the topics of discussion in society. Basically speaking, governments must tax people to meet the huge expenditures involved in their administrative duties, such as establishing law and order, defending borders, and offering educational, health, and welfare services. Because our budget relies heavily on oil income, this issue was ignored in the years before the victory of the Islamic revolution. After the victory, despite extensive changes in the country's economy and the difficult conditions of the war era, the country's taxation network did not grow in proportion with society's daily needs and a major part concentrated on the direct taxation of salaried workers or on indirect taxation in the form of customs tariffs on imports. But much of the taxation can come from free enterprise.

The major problem in this is the absence of a system to identify thousands of large and small transactions in the country daily. This is why, during recent years, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has designed a computer network and issued economic cards and taken steps toward solving this problem. This economic card involves everyone in production, trade, and services.

Thus it is expected that the extensive and full use of this system will close every path to tax evasion for the higher income strata and solve the problem of outstanding taxes, which constitute a considerable part of the public wealth to be used by the country's administrators.

Undoubtedly the suitable participation of every member of society is a necessary condition for the successful implementation of the new tax plan, which will make the country's economy healthier by guaranteeing the income required by the government.

In tandem with the use of this system the necessary steps should be considered in the country's taxation network to see that producers impose just taxes on the consumers of final products or services so that no harm is done to the final objective of establishing social justice in society.

Paper Criticizes Minister's Comments on Social Justice

NC3108114994 Tehran Jomhuri-e Eslami in Persian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Commentary by Ali Feyz: "Social Justice and Tax Reduction"]

[Text] Mohammad-Khan, minister of economic affairs and finance, said at the seminar of the Islamic Society of Graduates of the Indian Subcontinent that "... we intend to deal with social justice in the Second Plan and will start this policy by reductions in taxes..." There should not be much doubt about the minister's good intentions. But it seems that social justice cannot be achieved by tax reductions. To clarify this point, we should see who benefits from tax reductions. The truth is that civil servants and the workers who are receiving fixed salaries are paying the most taxes to the government and that the state mechanism in relation with this is extremely effective. The government automatically calculates what it is to receive out of the minimal income of the civil servants and workers even before it is paid. But when it comes to the richer strata, this same complicated mechanism proves to be ineffective. Nevertheless, the minister is aware better than anyone else that the country's middlemen and entrepreneurs take the largest share from the national income and pay the lowest taxes. The question is: How can a reduction in taxes affect this social class, which with just one telephone call or moving figures around can pocket billions of rials of profit, and lead to the social justice that the minister has in mind?

Social justice is a misunderstood word that is used by everyone to explain his specific intentions, and under the name of which plans that not only do not ensure social justice but actually help to widen the gap between the poor and the rich, are implemented. Taxing the class with astronomical incomes and not reducing taxes is what will help achieve social justice.

The Finance Ministry's wrong policies on the exploitation of national resources in the past years have led to the intensification of social differences. This is inexplicable in an Islamic system whose major goal is to reduce the gap in incomes and to ensure social justice. Frankly, we should say that if Mohammad-Khan means a general tax reduction, it is the bazaar that will benefit and not the civil servants and the toiling workers of the country. Entrepreneurs and middlemen have never paid taxes. If they have, it has been so minimal that there has not been a logical balance between their incomes and their taxes. The concern is that under the label of tax reductions for the civil servants and workers, even that minimal amount of tax that is paid by influential capitalists to the government treasury will cease to be paid, and the government will have to constantly increase the price of services and goods to meet its own financial needs. This means adopting policies that are contrary to social justice.

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The experience of all the capitalist countries in the world that make the same justice-seeking allegations has shown that taxes are the main income of governments and that incomes above a specific amount are 100 percent taxable. But because of the correct steps taken by these governments, the people enjoy such social justice that they do not worry about their own and their families' future. The minister of economic affairs and finance has studied the taxation system in European countries. Can he claim that by reducing taxes, social justice can be achieved? What is the logic behind such remarks? Which social justice does he have in mind? The gap between incomes is growing and a major part of the country's wealth is concentrating in the hands of a small group of people with political and economic strength, while more than 75 percent of society is facing lower standards of living each day. A tax reduction will apparently be welcomed by the civil servants and workers and may marginally improve their incomes. But if this reduction is generalized, undoubtedly the trade sector will gain the most benefits and the gap between incomes will increase. This kind of policy does not conform with what the minister previously stated that the general budget will be recovered through taxes.

The minister of economic affairs and finance should clarify the role that taxation plays in the economic wellbeing of society. If a reduction is being considered, which groups will it include? Of course, this commentary should not be considered as an opposition to reducing taxes. Naturally, the civil servants and those who receive fixed incomes will welcome this plan by the government. But they will not be the winners in this plan. Will tax reductions include the middlemen and tradesmen in the country as well? An answer to this question will clarify what social justice the minister has in mind.

Pakistan

Plans for Bhutto Visit to Gaza, Israeli Response Viewed

[DR 120614 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Aug 94 p 3]

[Editorial: "Israel's Puerile Show of Authority"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's proposed visit to Gaza called off now, has in the process generated considerable heat. A sharp reaffirmation by the prime minister to the effect that the envisaged visit, in line with Pakistan's policy, precluded any contact with the Israelis brought a rude and personal attack by the Israeli prime minister who held forth about the Pakistani PM's supposed lack of manners and the need for courtesy in international relations. Coming from the Israeli leadership this is certainly rich. Ever since its creation Israel has stood out for its inhuman treatment of the Palestinians and the usurpation of their rights while using the most brutal tactics and flouting the basic norms of civilized behaviour and human decency. True, the dynamics of power and realpolitik have enabled it to engage the Palestinians in a peace process on its terms, but Israel still has a long way to go before it can conclusively prove to them and to the rest of the world that it has sincerely changed its spots. Certainly much water will have to flow under the bridge before the Israeli leadership can start lecturing others on decent behaviour and courtesy in international relations.

That having been said it may be useful to point out that the Pakistan government could possibly have handled the whole affair a little better. Barring the issue of the frequency of the prime minister's trips abroad, the idea of showing solidarity with the Palestinians through a visit by the PM to the newly autonomous Gaza Strip was not in itself objectionable. However, some of the probable difficulties including the Israelis' ability to throw a spanner in the works should have been anticipated. Perhaps, the Palestinians should have been allowed to work out the sticky details with the Israeli authorities prior to the announcement by Pakistan confirming the visit. In any case having withdrawn their invitation under pressure, the Palestinians have registered their protest at the shabby treatment meted out to the Pakistani ambassador to Egypt who was kept waiting for hours at the border before being disallowed entry into Gaza and have termed it a violation of the terms of the PLO-Israel peace accord. To this end they even delayed the signing of the 'early empowerment' deal for the West Bank with the Israelis on Monday [29 August]. A likely, if unintended, consequence of the incident could well be greater pressure on Israel by the Palestinians to render their autonomy more meaningful so that along with taking control in other areas they are able to invite whomever they choose without waiting around for the Israelis to give them clearance. And certainly Israel should not be allowed to blackmail those intending to visit the newly-autonomous territories into according it recognition, albeit indirectly, by forcing them to formally apply to it for permission. Withholding recognition may well remain the preferred policy for Muslim countries unless Israel moves to give substance to the autonomy deal for the Palestinians and settles, among other things, the issue of the status of Jerusalem.

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